THE HISTORY OF WRESTLEMANIA I-IX

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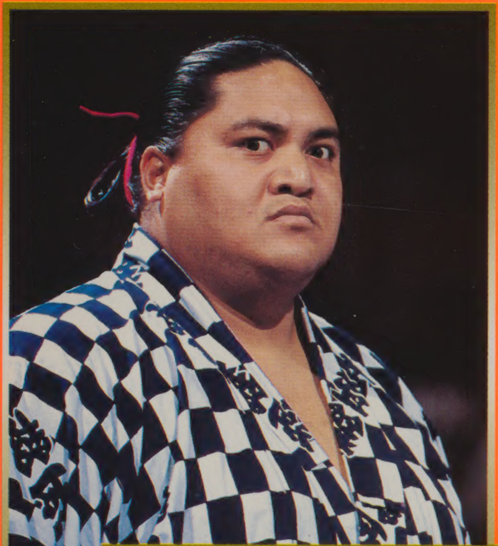
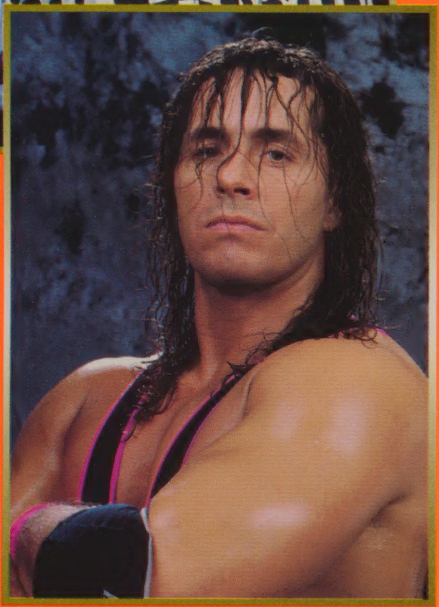
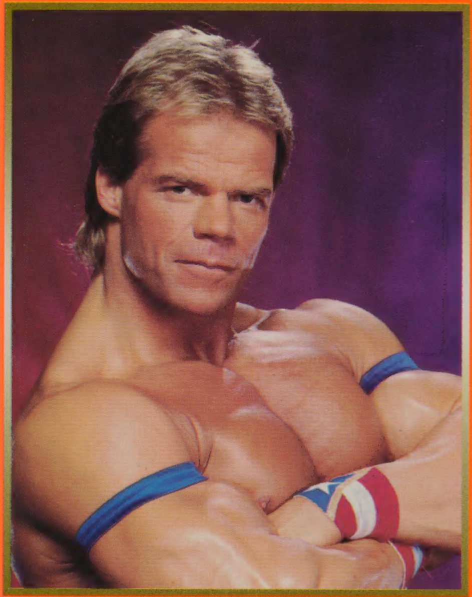
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

WWF® WRESTLEMANIA® X







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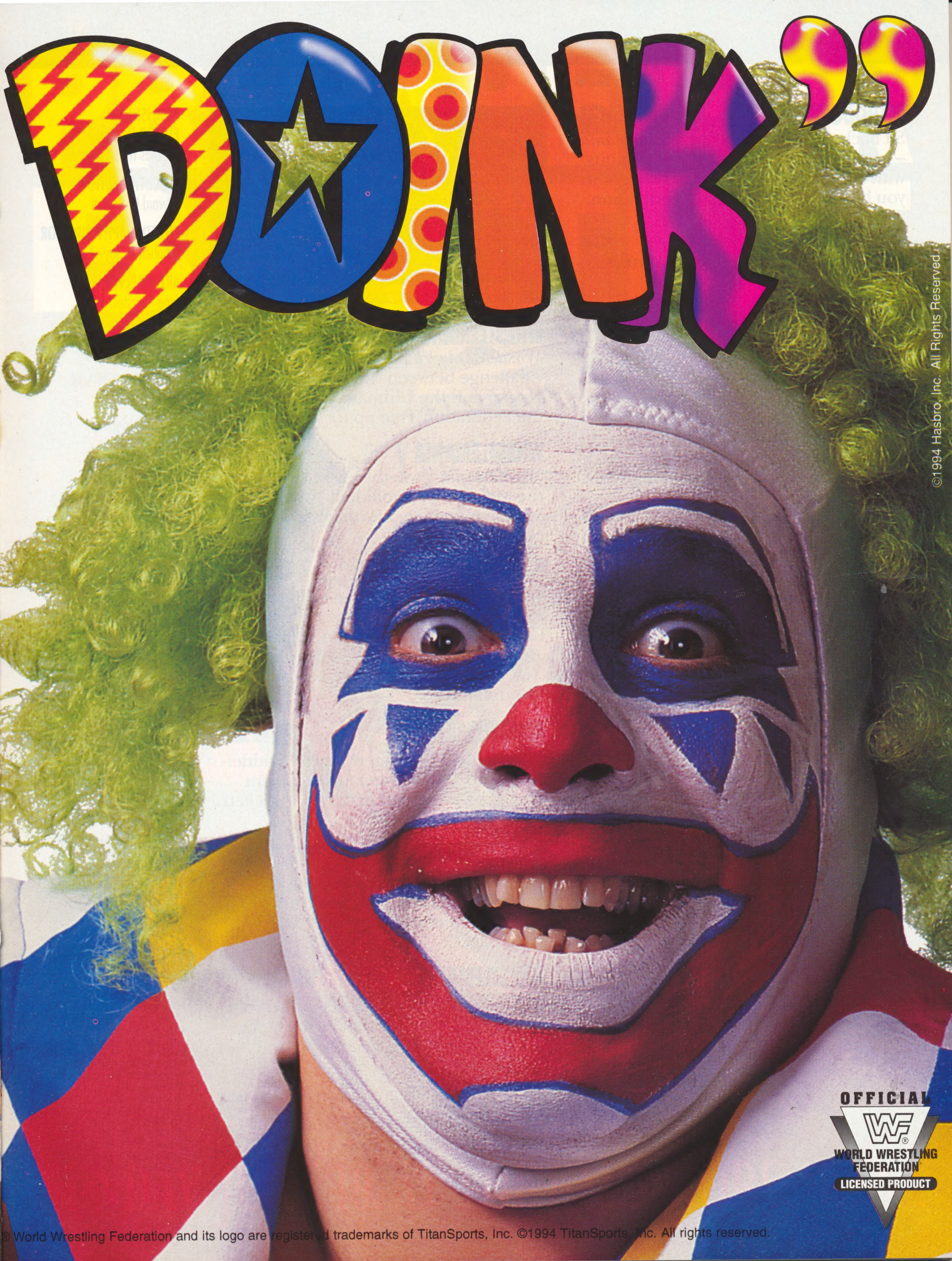
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Sit back and read all about *WrestleMania* – a name that has become synonymous with high-energy excitement brought to you by the World Wrestling Federation.

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WrestleMania IX came to be known as the world's largest toga party, as superstars and fans donned the bed sheets for this thrilling event that originated from Caesars Palace.

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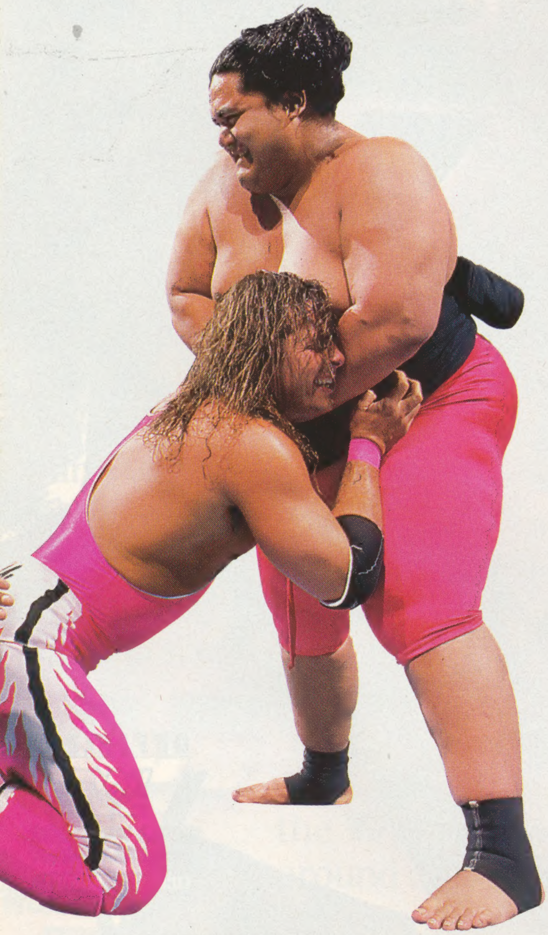

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For quick, detailed information on all nine *WrestleManias,* take a look at our results pages!

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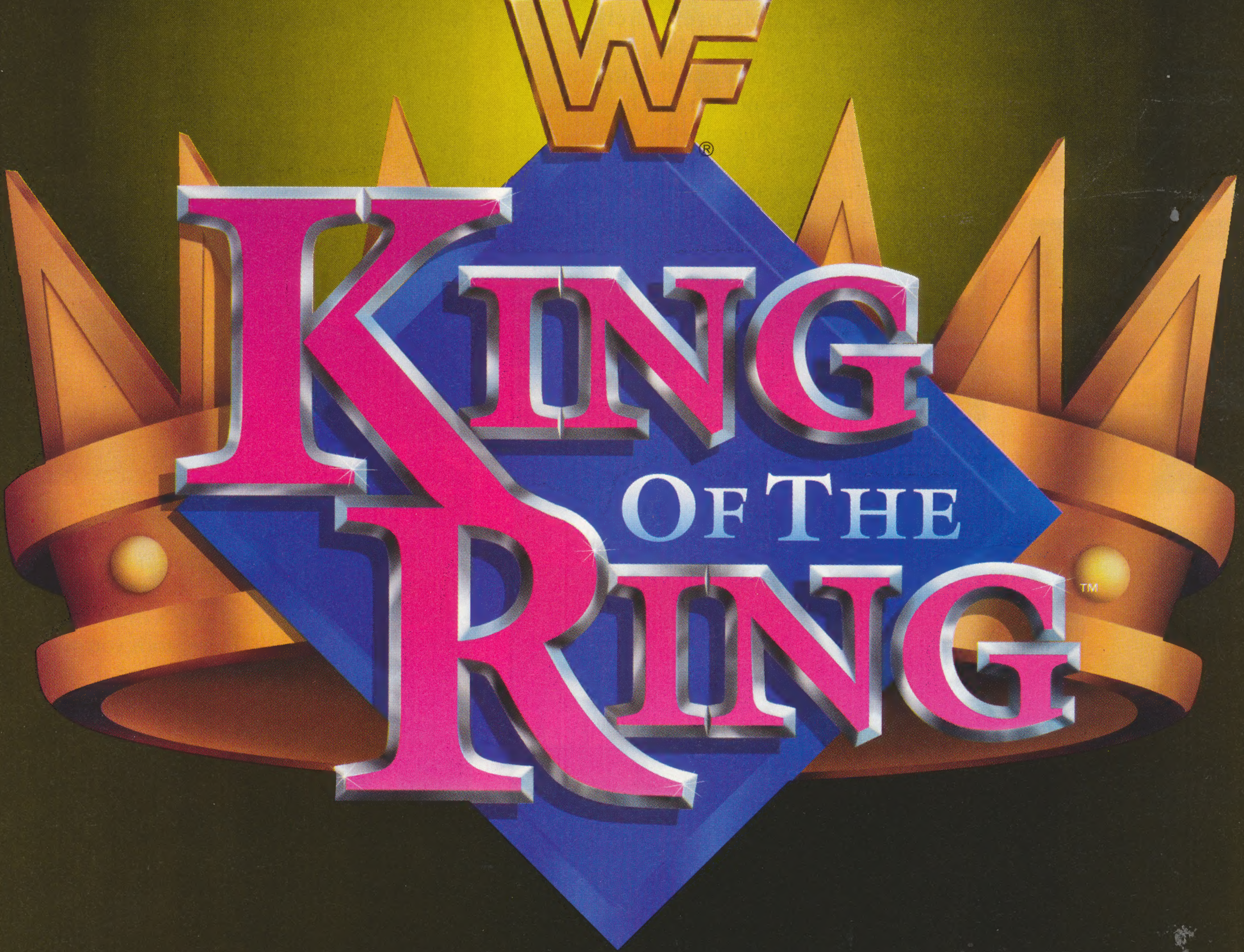
PREPARE FOR BATTLE

2ND ANNUAL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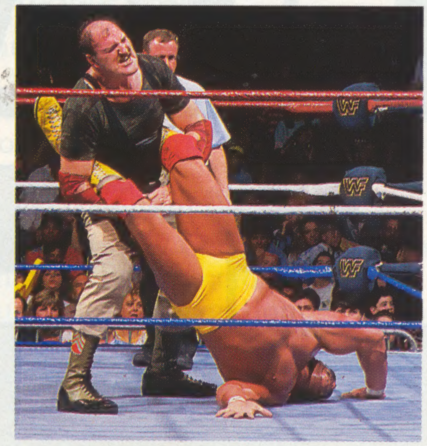
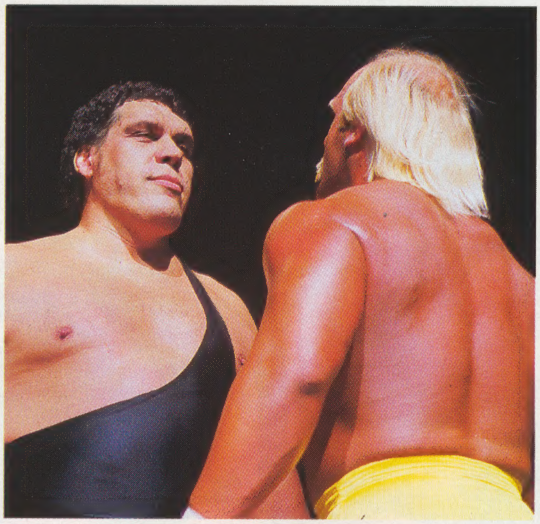


Introduction WrestleMania The Official History

Sunday, March 20. It will be a day that people everywhere in the world will remember. A cataclysm? Of sorts. But not one that will be remembered with sadness. It will be a time of excitement, thrills, emotion—the whole works. It will be a memorable time for everybody who watches, either on pay-per-view or live in the hallowed halls of Madison Square Garden in New York City. We're sure you know the event about which we are talking. *WrestleMania X*—the tenth anniversary of the most exciting event in sports entertainment, *WrestleMania.*

Little more than a decade ago, *WrestleMania* wasn't even a word. It is certainly a word now, spoken in languages across the globe. It is an institution, not just in North America but all around the world.

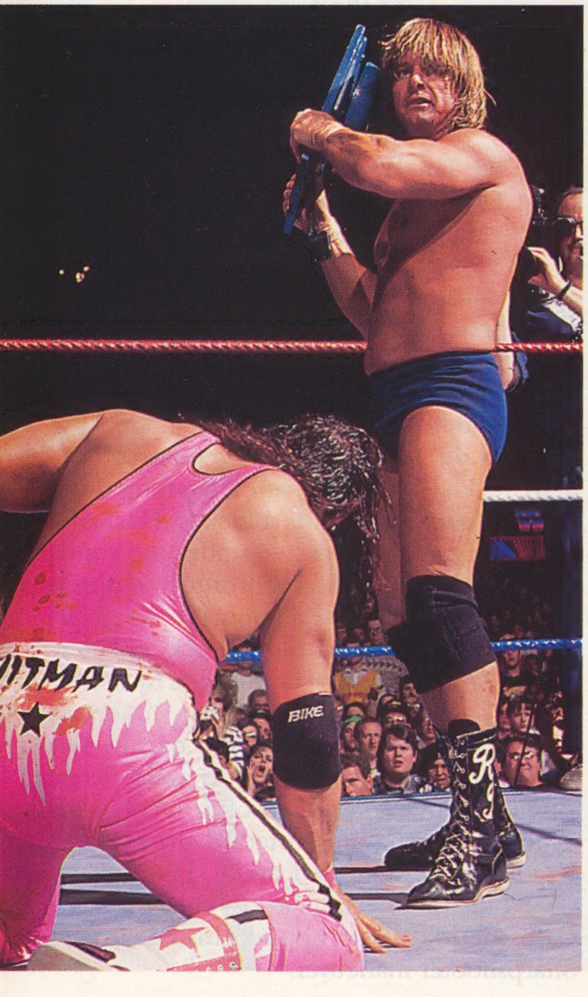
WrestleMania X erupts from where *WrestleMania* began: Madison Square Garden, where championship crowns and belts have been on the line time after time for generations.

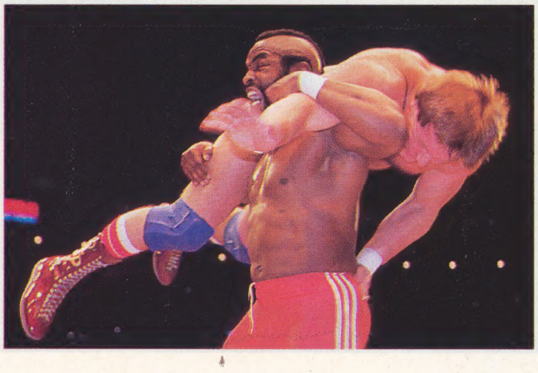


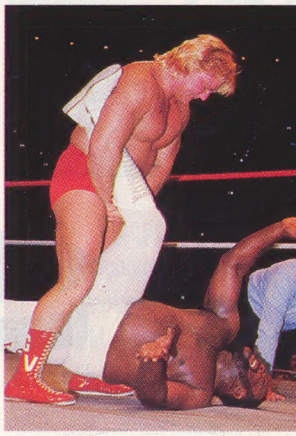
In token of *WrestleMania's* tenth anniversary, the World Wrestling Federation's publications staff has put together this history of *WrestleMania*, chronicling each year's event up to the last, *WrestleMania IX.* Here, too, you will find the card listing the blockbuster matches at *WrestleMania X.*

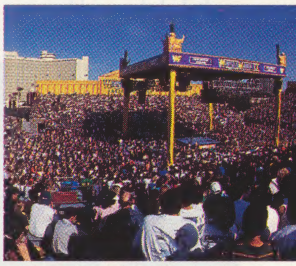
We hope that you enjoy this publication and keep it as a collector's item.

WRESTLEMANIA®









WrestleMania IX An Event Of Epic Proportions

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

Surprise! Surprise!

Combatants and fans alike had certain expectations going into *WrestleMania IX*, held April 4, 1993, amid the glittery splendor of Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. By the end of the day, those expectations were shattered. Instead, the outcome was even more unusual and exciting than expected. For the first time ever on a World Wrestling Federation card, the Federation Title changed not once, but twice. At the conclusion of another contest, some of Irwin R. Schyster's millions were revealed—and distributed to the crowd—when Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake confiscated his briefcase. In the Undertaker's match, he was slain—then resurrected.

Never before had a *WrestleMania* been so unpredictable—and so memorable.

WrestleMania IX, the event of epic proportions, was held April 4, 1993, at the opulent Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, known as the gambling capital of the world.

BRET "HIT MAN" HART

VS

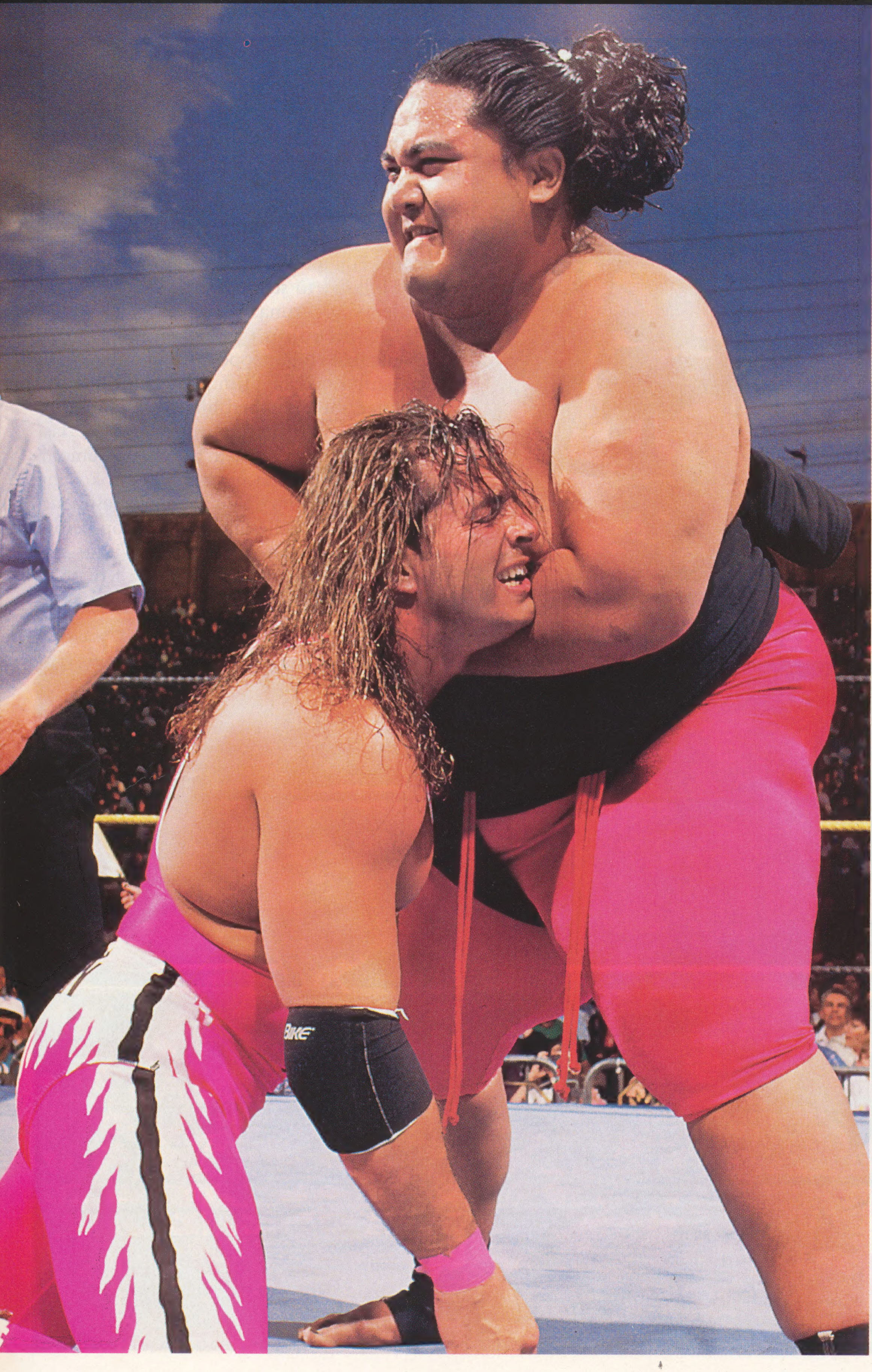
YOKOZUNA

FOR THE FEDERATION TITLE

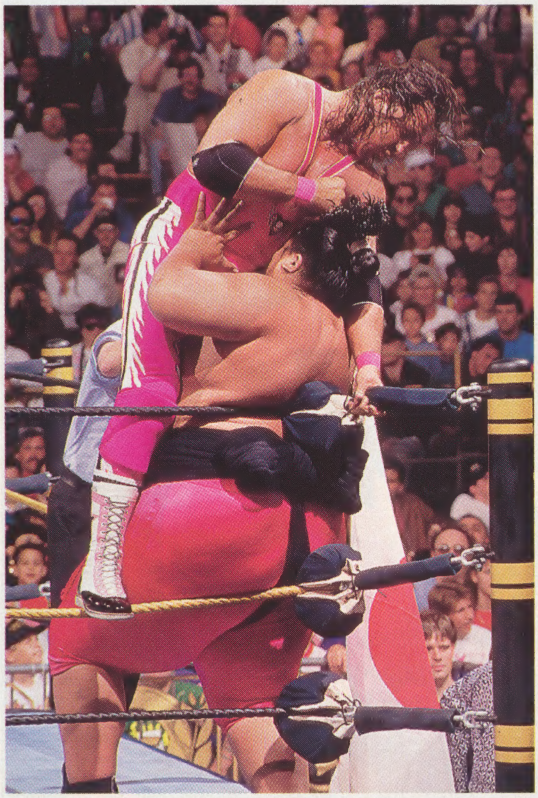
Since the last *WrestleMania*, the World Wrestling Federation Title had passed from Macho Man Randy Savage to Ric Flair to Bret Hart. Now, in the strangest *WrestleMania* championship battle ever held, Hart waged his superior athletic skills against the sheer bulk of former sumo wrestler Yokozuna. Astonishingly, neither man emerged from the match with the Championship Belt.

From the start, this was a seesaw contest. Hart rocked Yokozuna with a running dropkick. Yokozuna shoulderblocked Hart outside the ring. Bret reached under the ropes, tripped Yokozuna, hopped onto the apron and catapulted himself upon the Asian behemoth. Yokozuna fought back with legdrops, clotheslines and martial arts thrusts.

Preparing Hart for the finish, Yokozuna hoisted the champion out of a corner. But Hart—grasping for anything to avoid defeat—reached out and pulled off a turnbuckle. When Yokozuna attempted to drive Hart's head into the exposed metal, Hit Man reversed the move. As the woozy challenger fell onto the mat, Hart applied his celebrated Sharpshooter maneuver.



Caesar, Cleopatra and many Centurions came out at *WrestleMania IX* to see then-World Wrestling Federation Champion Bret "Hit Man" Hart go tooth-and-nail with the 500-pound sumo star Yokozuna.



The Hit Man and Yokozuna engaged in a tremendous battle of strength, will and fortitude. The tide of war shifted back and forth many times, until Yokozuna's manager Mr. Fuji blinded Bret with salt.

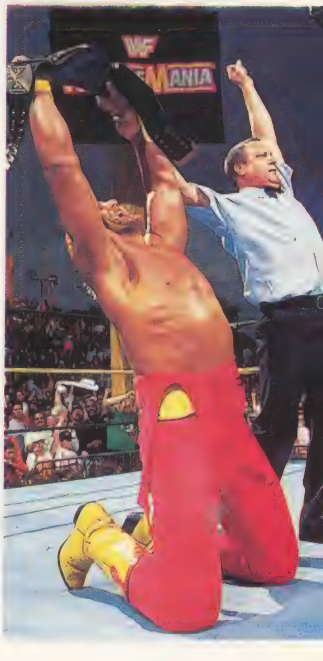
The fans rose to their feet, certain of an outcome evoking images of David defeating Goliath. However, Yokozuna's manager Mr. Fuji had different designs. The adviser blinded the Hit Man with a handful of salt, and Yokozuna ended up getting the duke.

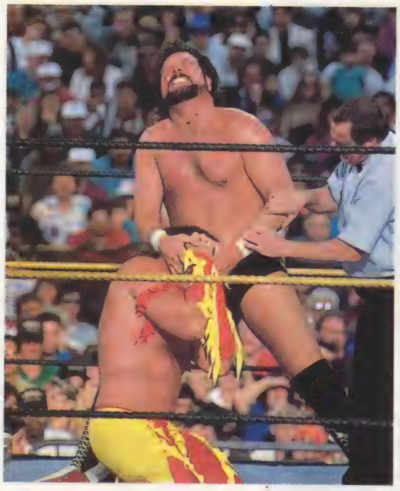
The one-time sumo star was the champion—but not for long. Noticing Hulk Hogan at ringside arguing about the finish of the match, Fuji took the microphone and defied the Hulkster to step through the ropes and challenge Yokozuna.

Hogan couldn't resist the offer. The minute that Hulk stepped through the ropes, Yokozuna was on him. He pounded the Hulkster, then grabbed him from behind so that Fuji could hurl more salt. At the last moment, Hogan ducked, and the ceremonial salt hit Yokozuna instead. Now Yokozuna was the one who couldn't see. He easily succumbed to a clothesline and legdrop before Hogan scored the decisive pin. Within moments, Hogan had stunned the wrestling world by securing a record fifth World Wrestling Federation Title.

HITMAN
WF
WF

After Fuji's interference from ringside, Yokozuna covered Bret for the pinfall and title. Afterward, Hulk came to ringside and, within minutes, was the Federation titleholder for the fifth time.





In a match for the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Title, then-Champions Money Inc.—the Million Dollar Man and IRS—beat the Mega-Maniacs, Hulk and Beefcake, by disqualification.

MONEY INC.

VS

THE MEGAMANIACS

FOR THE TAG TEAM TITLE

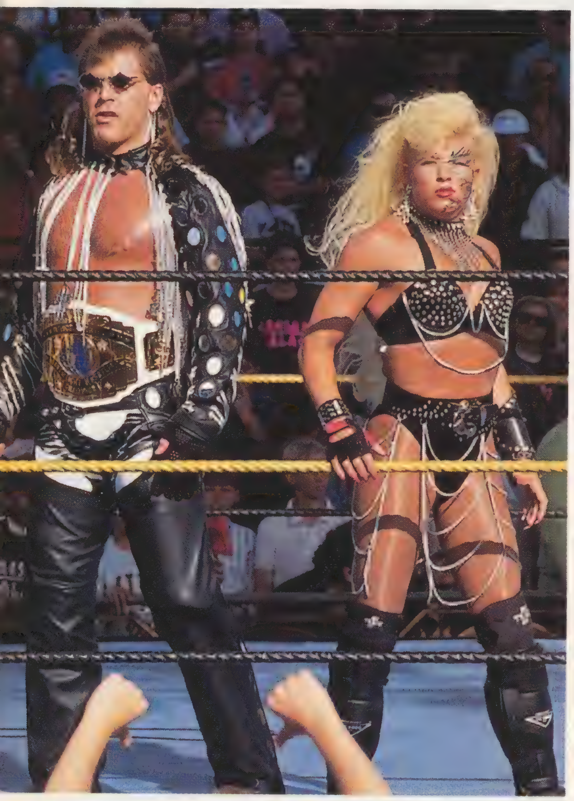
After his retirement match at *WrestleMania VIII*, many fans believed they'd seen the last of Hulk Hogan in the squared circle. But World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champions Money Inc.—Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase and IRS—pushed their luck when they attacked the Hulkster's best friend, Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake, on a *Monday Night Raw* episode. Aware of the severe facial injuries Beefcake had suffered in a parasailing accident in 1990, the duo targeted his face. Now, Hogan was out of retirement, vowing not only revenge but a Federation Tag Team Title victory for himself and Beefcake. The duo was dubbed the Mega-Maniacs by the fans.

Hogan's time out of the ring seemed apparent, as DiBiase nearly scored an early triumph over the legend with a sleeper. But Beefcake was quick to rush to his friend's defense, disabling the Million Dollar Man with another sleeper.

Resorting to the treachery that characterized their championship reign, Money Inc. removed Beefcake's protective mask and went after his fragile face. Remarkably, the Barber was able to stay out of harm's way, ducking under a clothesline, bouncing off the ropes and smashing both opponents with a spectacular flying clothesline.

The Mega-Maniacs were coasting toward victory. Unfortunately, the referee was knocked out in the free-for-all and was in no condition to acknowledge it. After Hogan blasted both adversaries with the face mask and covered DiBiase for the pin, the Mega-Maniacs' manager Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart improvised, turning his jacket inside out—revealing a striped lining—and slapping the mat three times, in place of the unconscious referee.

The move brought the Maniacs a disqualification. However, their momentum was anything but slowed. After the bell, they grabbed IRS' briefcase, opening it up to expose, among other items, a brick and large cache of cash. Hogan and Beefcake gleefully dispensed the money to the ringside fans, feeling much more like winners than losers.

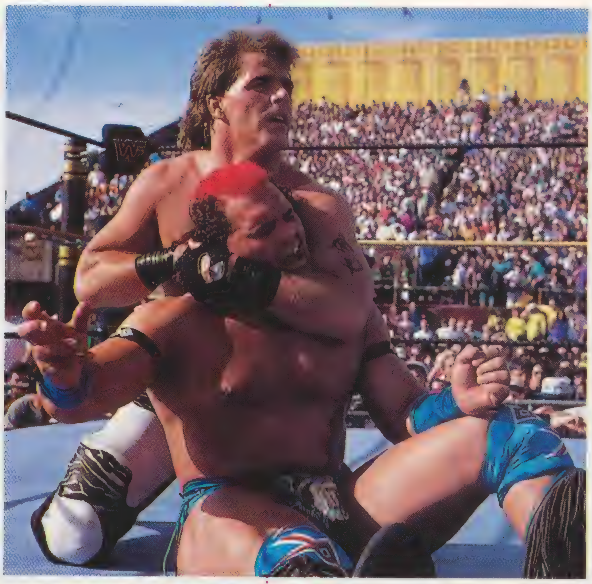


SHAWN MICHAELS
VS
TATANKA
INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP

What promised to be a war between a proud, undefeated challenger and a cocky, able champion ended up being more of a battle of female managers.

Having recently parted ways with adviser Sensational Sherri, Intercontinental titlist Shawn Michaels turned up at ringside with the unpredictable Luna Vachon. In response, Sherri accompanied Tatanka to the ring.

Shawn Michaels, who was the Intercontinental titlist at the time, lost via disqualification to Tatanka. The match marked the debut of Luna Vachon.

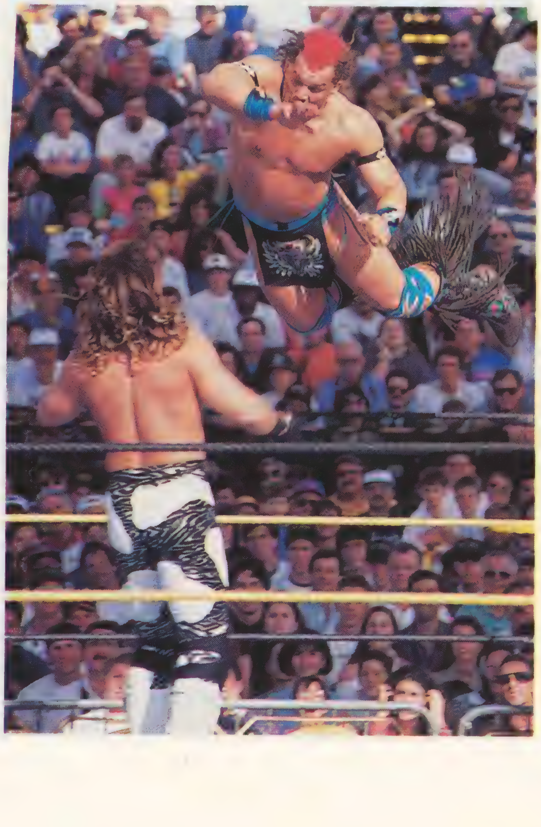


In reality, neither man needed any help. Both lived up to their reputations as stellar competitors. Despite a bad shoulder further aggravated in the match, Michaels stunned the crowd by diving off the ring apron to clothesline Tatanka on the arena floor. Displaying remarkable defensive abilities, the Native American caught Shawn in midair during a dropkick attempt and whipped him into a corner.

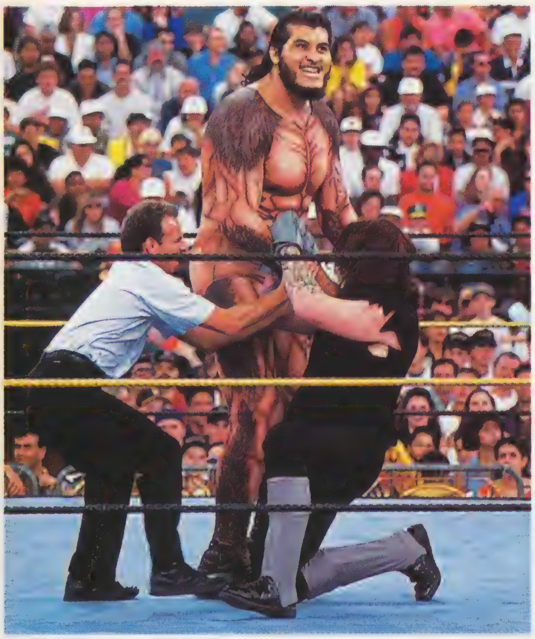
As the action spilled outside the ring, Michaels grew more and more desperate. Realizing that he was about to be counted out, the champion reached up and pulled the referee down into the action. The deed resulted in a disqualification victory for Tatanka. But since a title can only change hands on a pinfall or submission, Michaels remained in possession of the belt.

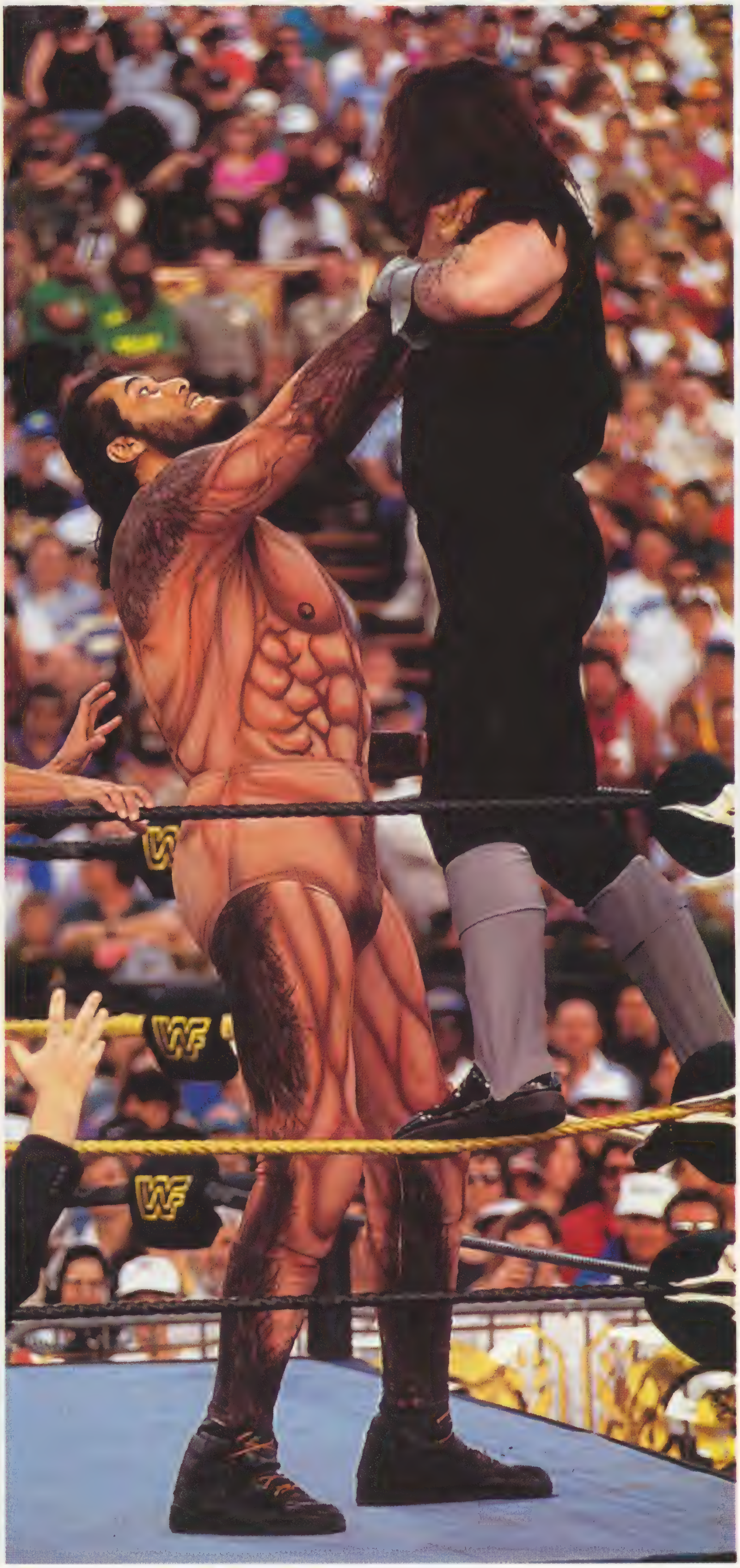
At this point, both of the women decided that they wanted to continue the tussle. Luna clotheslined, bodyslammed and kicked Sherri at ringside and later jumped her at the first aid station backstage.

Luna Vachon wanted everyone to know that she'd arrived in the World Wrestling Federation—and she couldn't have picked a better forum to prove it.



WrestleMania IX was filled with surprises. Tatanka scored a DQ victory over Michaels, while Luna and Sensational Sherri brawled at ringside. Also, the Giant Gonzalez met the awesome Undertaker.





THE UNDERTAKER

VS

GIANT GONZALEZ

Having plowed his way through virtually every opponent placed in his path, the Undertaker faced a unique test going up against nearly 8-foot-tall Giant Gonzalez.

Whatever Gonzalez did, the Undertaker seemed to find a counter. When the Giant battered his opponent onto one knee, the

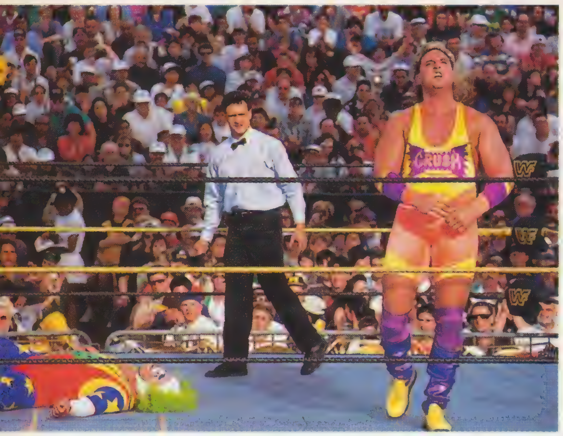
Undertaker responded with uppercuts, then perched himself on the second rope—above the imposing Gonzalez—to deliver a choke. As if that weren't enough, Undertaker amazed the spectators by walking across the top rope before dropping an elbow on his massive rival.

But the most bewildering moments were yet to come. Gonzalez's manager Harvey Wippleman had a devious and potentially lethal plot tucked up his sleeve. He handed Gonzalez a handkerchief soaked with a mysterious sedative. The Giant held the rag over Undertaker's mouth and nose. The chemical immediately overtook the Undertaker, and the Grim Reaper went down.

Gonzalez was disqualified, and the Undertaker seemed to be in serious shape—so much so that paramedics were dispatched to the ring to wheel him away. But before the stretcher could reach the dressing room, the Grim Reaper inexplicably rose, seemingly rejuvenated with new life to continue the brawl.

Gonzalez earned himself a disqualification when he tried to smother the Undertaker with a handkerchief soaked with a sedative that manager Harvey Wippleman produced.

Crush, then one of the most popular superstars, battled Doink the Clown(s), who was one of the least favorite competitors in the World Wrestling Federation. Crush ended up on the short end of the stick.



CRUSH

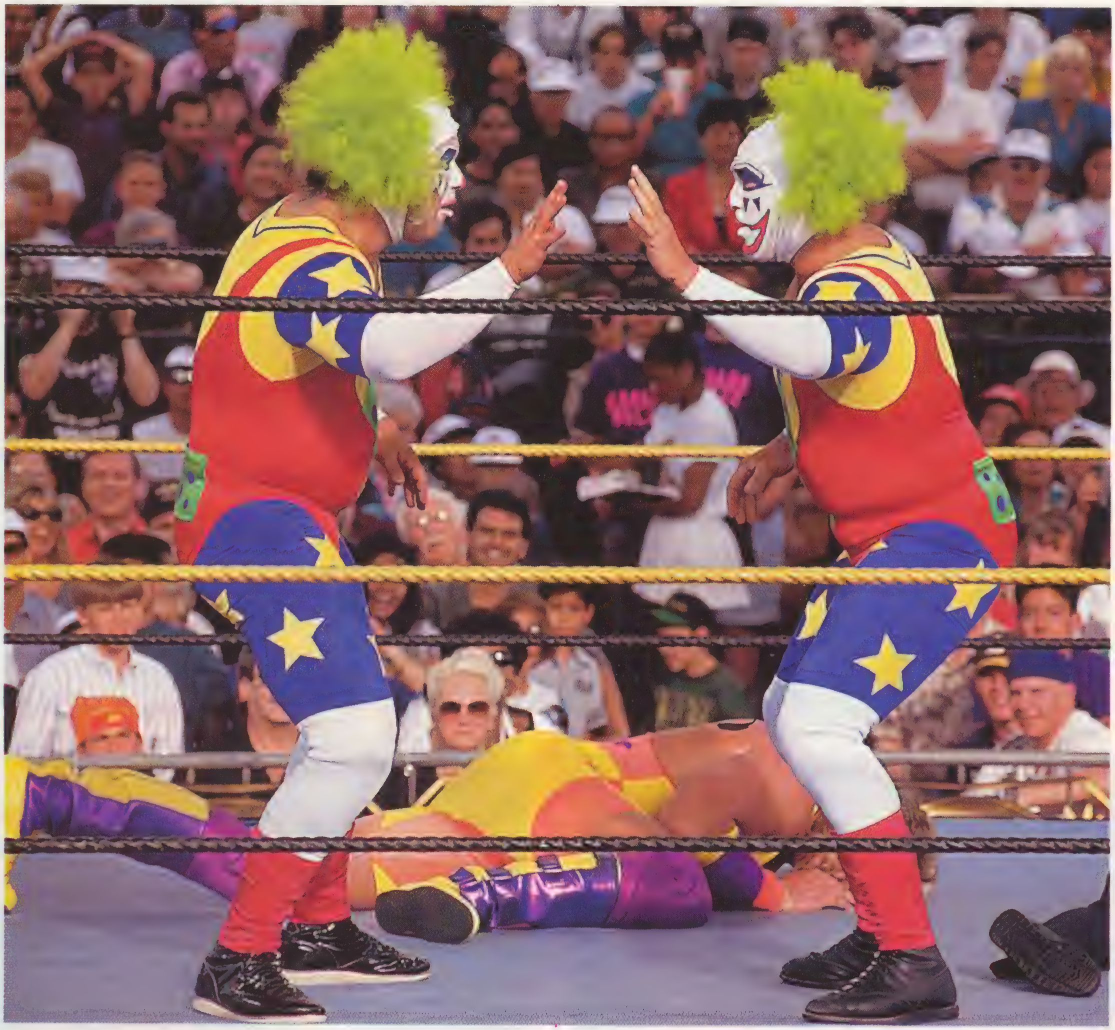
VS

DOINK THE CLOWN

Crush—riding a wave of popularity at that time—had one goal on his mind: hurting the clown who'd nearly crippled him during an attack months earlier.

Aware of this, Doink tried to maintain the offensive edge. A piledriver almost took out Crush, but Doink apparently needed more help. After Crush recovered and trapped the clown in the Cranium Crush, a second Doink

Doink and his "illusionary" partner beat Crush to within an inch of his pain tolerance before covering the big man from Hawaii for the winning pinfall.

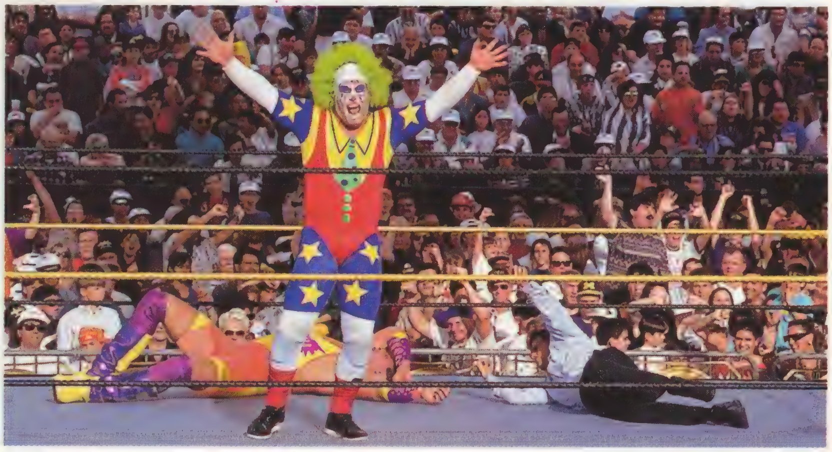


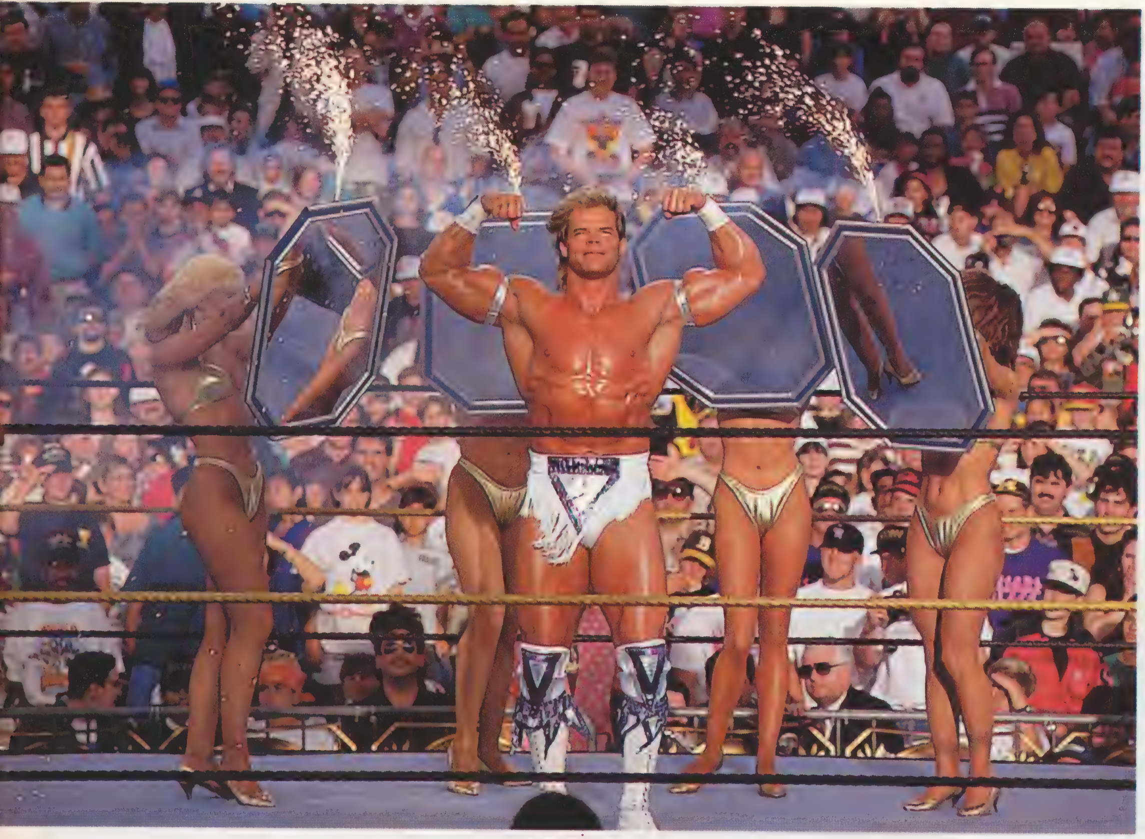
appeared, blasting the mighty Hawaiian with a lead-filled prosthesis—the same device that was used on Crush in the original attack. Crush fell to the mat unconscious.

The referee—who had earlier been knocked out in the clash—awakened in time to register a pin by one of the Doinks as the other one hid beneath the ring.

The experience of losing in this manner left Crush embittered, and he would later turn against fans and ring allies alike.

Ironically, Doink the Clown would gain widespread acceptance by matwatchers at about the same time.





MR. PERFECT

VS

LEX LUGER

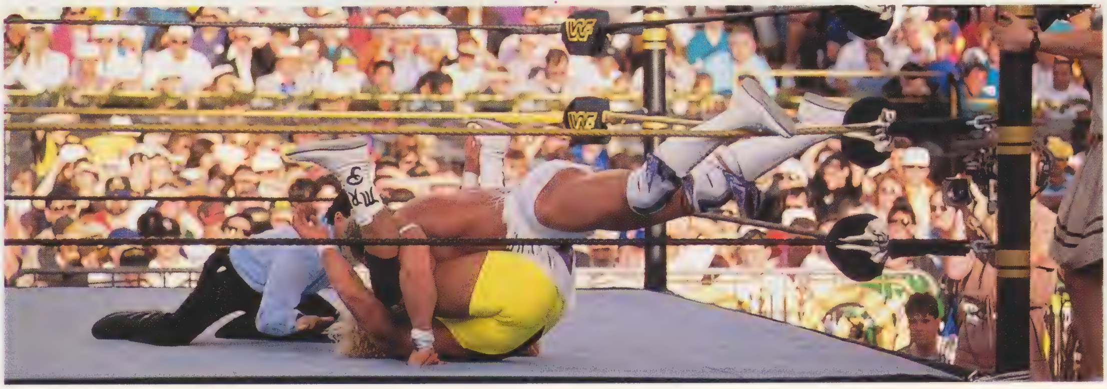
Lex Luger, then known as "The Narcissist," was out to make a splash at *WrestleMania IX.* Luger entered the ring accompanied by four curvaceous ladies holding mirrors up to reflect his granite physique. Fully aware that

The Narcissist Lex Luger made his ring debut an extremely memorable event at *WrestleMania IX* by battling former two-time Intercontinental Champion Mr. Perfect.

Mr. Perfect's back had been injured several years before, the Narcissist immediately went for what he knew to be his adversary's most vulnerable spot .

Remarkably, Perfect endured this attack, stunning the Narcissist with a sunset flip, a slingshot into the corner and an off-the-top-rope dropkick.

Luger had to rely on his storied strength —as well as a little bit of rule-bending—to rally back. He powered out of a backslide attempt and illegally wedged Perfect against the ropes as he tied him up for the pin. Then, seeming to want to prove an extra point, Luger bashed his opponent with a deadly forearm—surgically enforced by steel —after the final bell, sending him into a state of unconsciousness.



Perfect and Luger pulled out all the stops in this electrifying matchup. Luger, with assistance from the ring ropes, rolled up the Perfect One for the win at *WrestleMania IX*.

THE STEINER BROTHERS

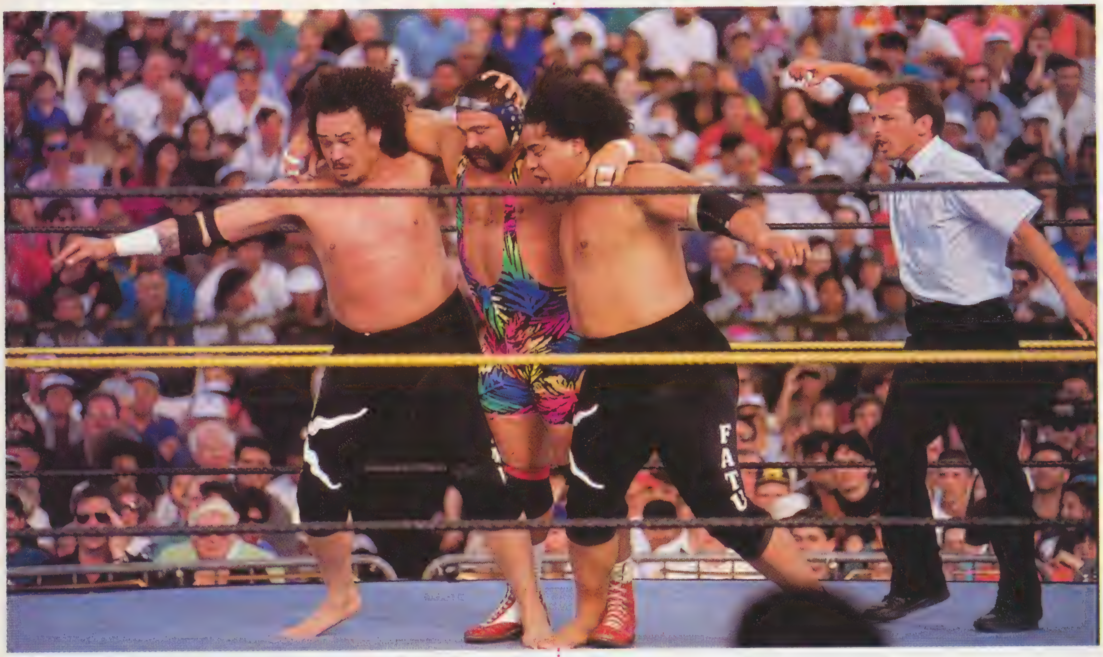
VS

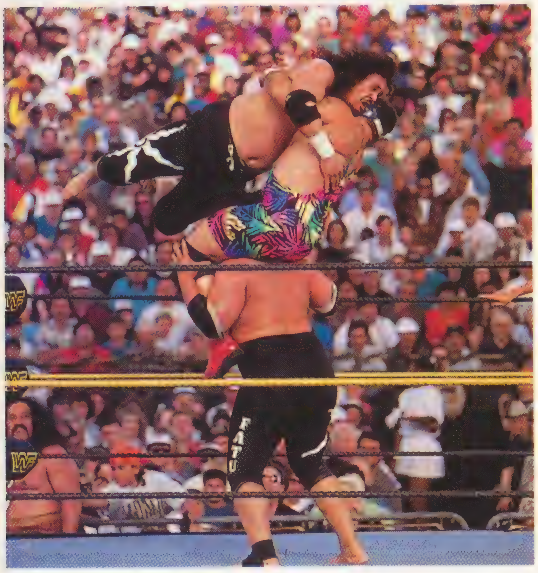
THE HEAD SHRINKERS

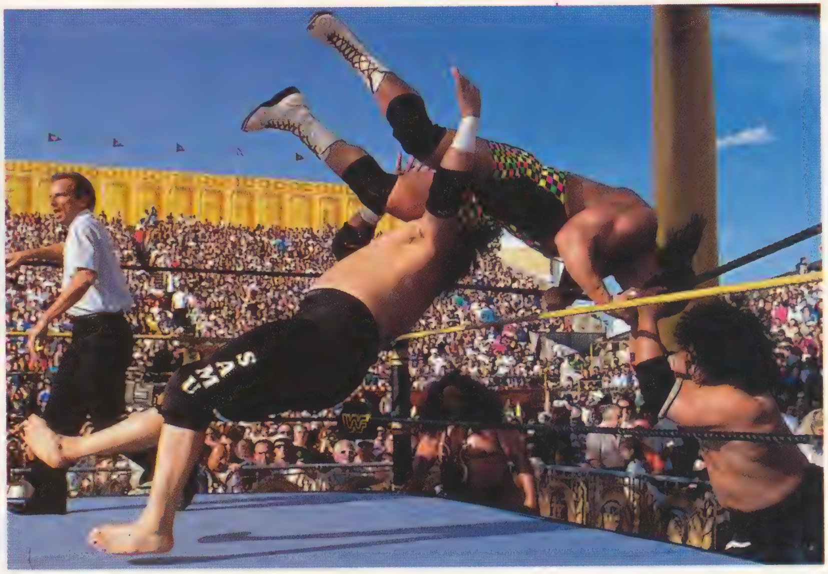
From the day they entered the World Wrestling Federation, Rick and Scott Steiner were touted as future tag team champions. But to achieve this goal, they'd have to fight their way past the dangerous Head Shrinkers—Fatu and Samu—at *WrestleMania IX*.

Both teams were fast, brutal and fearless,

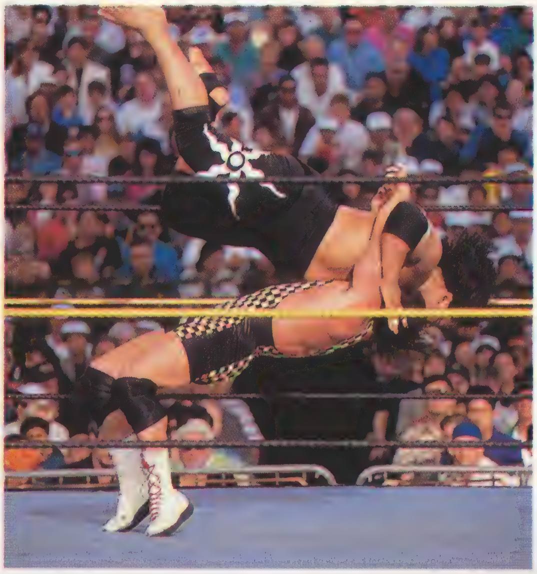
In a tag team match, the Steiner Brothers, Rick and Scott, battled the Head Shrinkers, Samu and Fatu. Both tandems unleashed a devastating attack and tried their best to eradicate one another from the Federation.







Despite the punishment they sustained, the Steiner Brothers rallied and dazzled the Head Shrinkers with high-flying moves to get the duke. These teams feuded for some time after *WrestleMania IX.*



but the Steiners put on a wrestling clinic. The duo mounted the same turnbuckle to take down both of their opponents with a double flying clothesline.

When Rick was placed on Fatu's shoulders and Samu dived at the brawny Michign native from the top rope, the elder Steiner made an amazing comeback—remarkably snatching Samu in midair and hurting him with a high-impact powerslam.

Not long afterward, Scott got the duke after executing his celebrated Frankensteiner finishing maneuver.

The *WrestleMania IX* victory propelled the Steiner Brothers to the top of the team rankings. It wouldn't be too long before they would snag the coveted World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Belts.

BOB BACKLUND

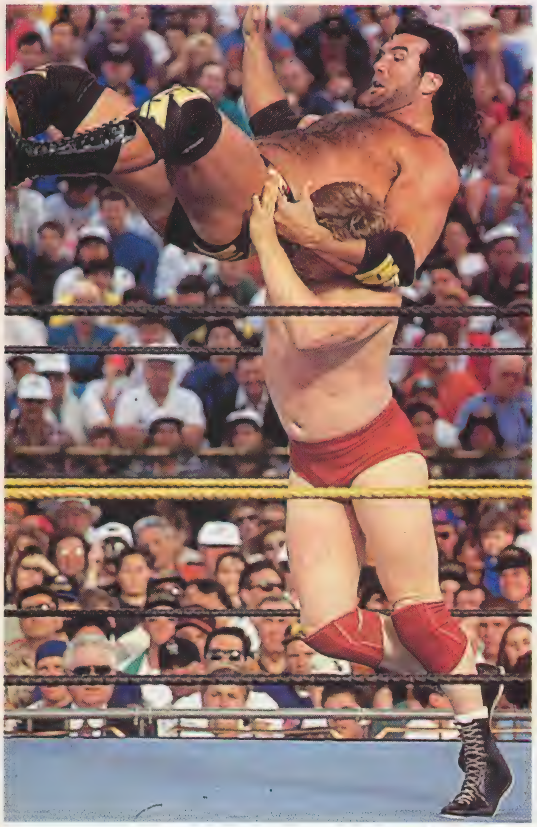
VS

RAZOR RAMON

Perceptions die hard. Bob Backlund—owner of the World Wrestling Federation Championship from 1978 to 1983—has always been seen as the personification of a pure wrestler. On the other hand, the Cuban-born Razor Ramon was viewed as a back-alley brawler—until *WrestleMania IX.*

A new side of Ramon surfaced in this confrontation. He survived Backlund's single leg

Would-be Intercontinental Champion Razor Ramon, the Bad Guy, squared off against former Federation titleholder Bob Backlund. Backlund, who held the Federation Belt from 1978 to 1983, was eventually overwhelmed by the larger and more aggressive Ramon.



trips, hip tosses and suplexes, learning and growing stronger from each encounter. Finally, Ramon startled Backlund by equaling him on a scientific plane: beating the former champ with a picture-perfect cradle.

Within several months, Ramon would be the World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Champion. But on this night, Razor proved that he was "the wrestler" as well as "the Bad Guy."

WrestleMania VIII A WrestleMania Of Epic Proportions

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO

WrestleMania VIII, which originated from the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana, was an event of monumental proportions. For instance, two World Wrestling Federation titles changed hands that Sunday afternoon.

In one match, Macho Man Randy Savage reclaimed the Federation Championship with a victory over then-titlist Nature Boy Ric Flair. In another, Bret "Hit Man" Hart became a two-time Intercontinental Champion when he defeated Rowdy Roddy Piper.

WrestleMania VIII also had other memorable moments. At the time, it marked Hulk Hogan's last match as an active wrestler; he retired soon after *WrestleMania VIII* but, as is common knowledge today, returned after a one-year sabbatical to compete in *WrestleMania IX.* While Hogan decided to hang up the wrestling trunks that year, the Ultimate Warrior—who had been a virtual recluse since *SummerSlam '91*—returned to the Federation and dazzled millions of fans with his rage, intensity and immeasurable strength.

To maintain *WrestleMania* tradition, several celebrities, such as Ray Combs of the *Family Feud* and country songstress Reba McEntire—who opened *WrestleMania VIII* with her rendition of the *Star Spangled Banner*—showed up at the Hoosier Dome. They were joined by Lex Luger, who granted commentator Bobby "The Brain" Heenan an interview via satellite from his home in Atlanta; Luger was scheduled to participate in a major bodybuilding championship that year.

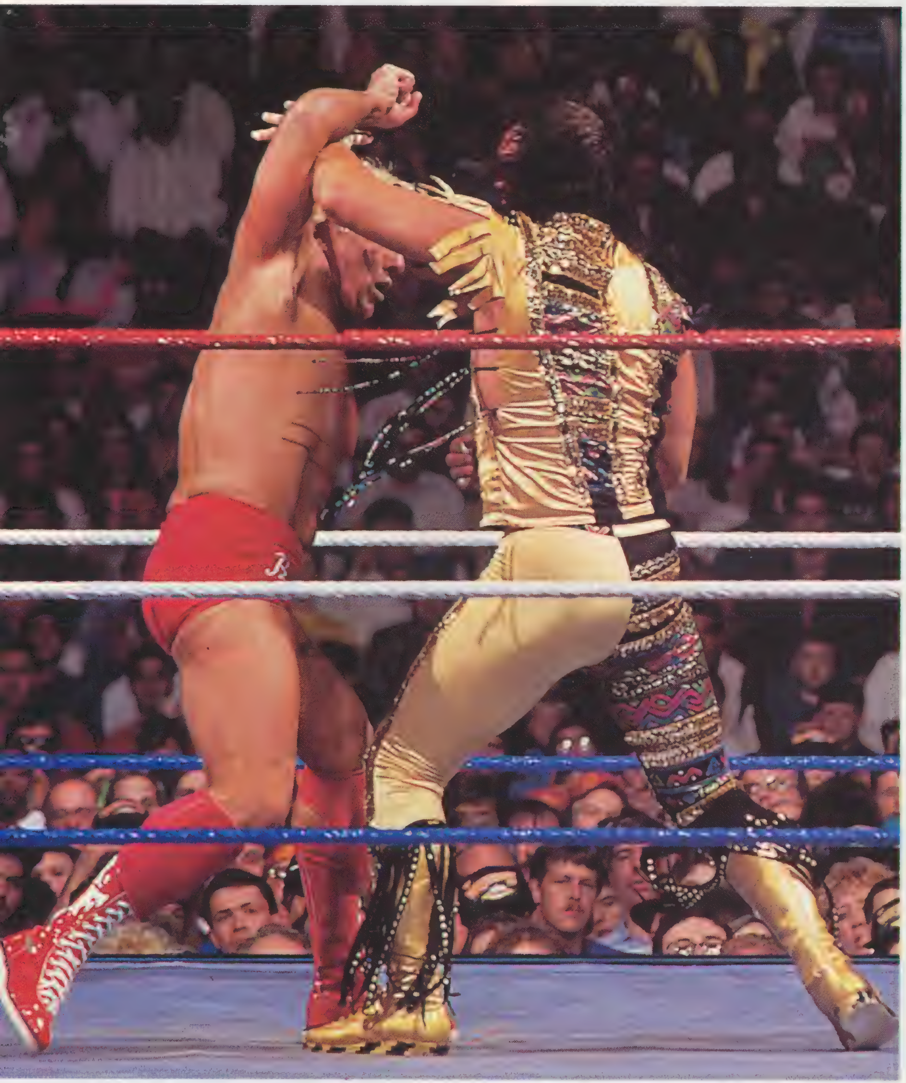
RIC FLAIR
VS
MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE
FOR THE FEDERATION TITLE

The Macho Man was geared up and ready to go for this title confrontation.

Driven by powerful emotions, Savage rushed to the ring and knocked the stuffings out of his cocky opponent with shoulderblocks and clothelines. Savage couldn't be stopped. His eyes ablaze with fury, he laced into the champion with all he could muster.

When referee Earl Hebner demanded re-

WrestleMania VIII saw Randy Savage battle then-Federation Champion Ric Flair at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, while Reba McEntire and Ray Combs lent their talents to the dazzling event.



straint on the Macho Man's part, though, Flair jumped him. He backdropped Savage over the ropes to the cement floor and then proceeded to command the contest.

Methodically, Flair stalked Savage and fired off a bevy of chops to Savage's chest. The impact was shuddering and made the thousands on hand gasp with horror.

Savage, however, came back. Amazingly, he reached inside himself and extracted the necessary ingredients to mount an impressive comeback. He flew at Flair with pulverizing axhandles and riddled his head with

It was a brutal match. Flair, with Perfect's help, injured Savage's leg with a chair; he retaliated by opening a wound on the Champion's forehead. In the end, Savage prevailed and won the belt for a second time.

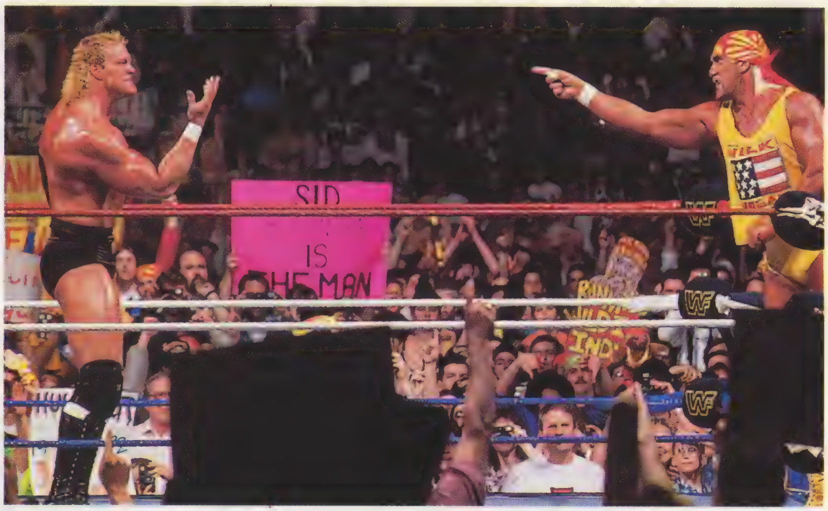
punches. Flair was hurt. He staggered around the ring and pleaded with his Executive Consultant Mr. Perfect for assistance.

Perfect, fearing his boy would be squashed, intervened. He got into the ring and managed to slip Flair a pair of brass knuckles, which he used to blast Savage.

If that wasn't enough treachery, Perfect also viciously hammered Savage's leg with the chair while the referee was distracted.

It looked grim for Savage. His leg was wasted. He hobbled around the ring and was grossly off-balance. But it was nothing but a psychological ploy on Savage's part.

Savage suckered Flair into his trap. With a handful of trunks, Savage rolled up Flair and beat him for the Federation Championship, a belt Savage held until September 1992.



Hulk Hogan defeated Sid Justice by disqualification when Papa Shango interfered. Just when Hogan seemed doomed, the Ultimate Warrior ran into the ring and helped dispatch the tormentors.

HULK HOGAN

VS

SID JUSTICE

Prior to *WrestleMania VIII*, Hulk decided to call it quits. Hogan said his match against psycho Sid Justice would be his last. Sid was a monster. During the match, Justice manhandled Hogan. He tossed the Hulkster around the ring with alarming ease. Some said Justice handled Hogan like "a rag doll." Suddenly, to the horror of all, Papa Shango entered the ring and began to help Justice pound Hogan.

Before any more punishment could be wrought against Hulk, the Ultimate Warrior bolted into the ring and met Hogan's tormentors head on. *WrestleMania VIII* turne out to be a remarkable return for the Warrior and a triumphant departure for th Hulkster, who won by disqualification.

HULKAMANIA FOREVER

RODDY PIPER

VS

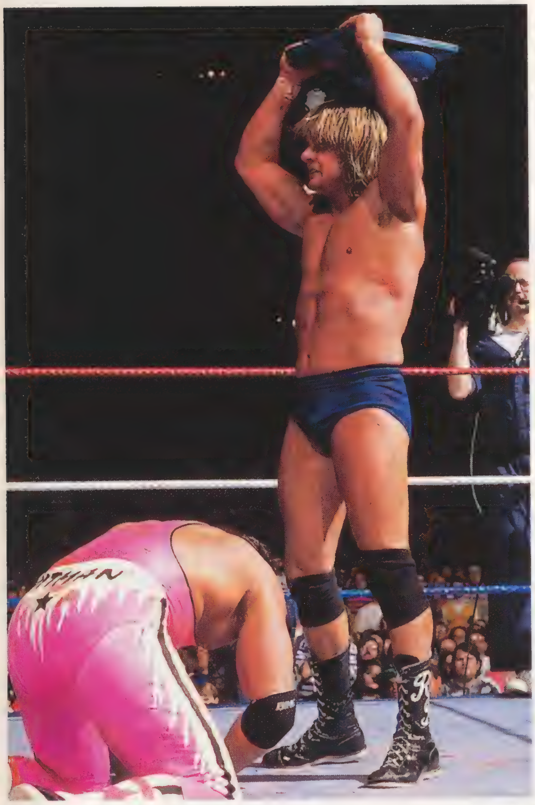
BRET "HIT MAN" HART

INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Bret and Piper, close friends for many years, put their friendship on hold in favor of competition. Piper, who won the belt from the Mountie some months earlier at the *Royal Rumble*, told Bret that their battle would be a bloody war. He was true to his words.

As soon as he entered the ring, Piper spat on the Hit Man and ensnared his arm in an armbar. Bret swiftly countered and almost polished off the Scot with a small package.

From there, Piper tried a different approach. He motioned that Bret's shoelace was undone, and when Bret fell for it, Piper nailed him with a sucker's shot to the eye. It was a cold but effective tactic. Piper then followed up with a bulldog that nearly sent Hart's skull through the canvas.



In a match for the Intercontinental Title, then-titlist Rowdy Roddy Piper battled his friend Bret Hart in what was a bittersweet war of wills.

The action soon spilled onto the arena floor. Piper threw Bret back into the ring and threatened to level the challenger with the foreign object. Instead of cracking Bret with the bell, Piper opted to stomp him. Knowing that Bret was in dire straits, Piper moved in for the kill and clamped on the sleeperhold.

Relying on his uncanny ring presence, Bret maneuvered himself to the turnbuckles, launched himself off the second pad and fell back onto Piper. That was it for the title.

Although Bret won the belt, he and Piper rekindled their friendship. They embraced and proved to the world that good sportsmanship still exists in professional athletics.

MONEY INC.

VS

THE NATURAL DISASTERS

FOR THE TAG TEAM TITLE

This match for the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Title turned out to be a war of attrition. The Natural Disasters, Earthquake and Typhoon, were the biggest duo in Federation history, boasting a total combined weight of nearly 900 pounds.

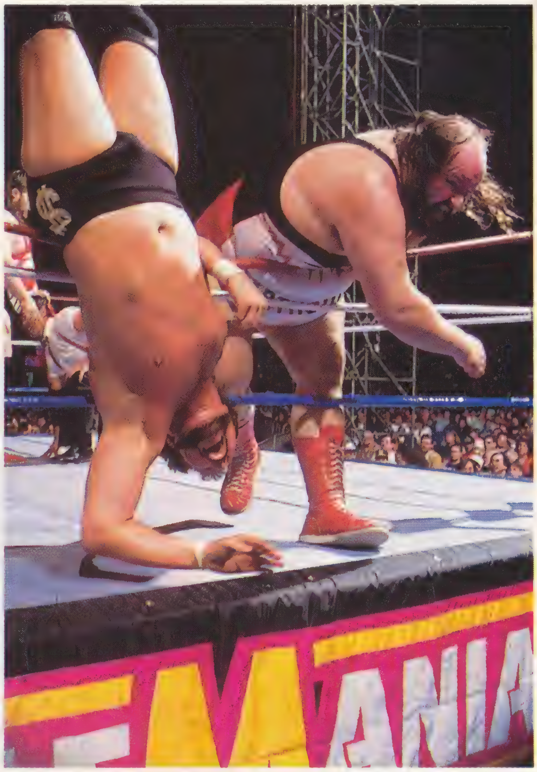
Weeks before *WrestleMania VIII*, the Disasters, under the management of Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, were close to attaining a title match against then-champions the Legion of Doom.

But, before the Mouth finalized the contracts for the match, he sold out to Money Inc., the Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase and IRS. As fate would have it, Money Inc. went on to win the Championship Belts, while the Natural Disasters were forced to watch the action from the sidelines.

They had been had by the worst wheeler and dealer in the World Wrestling Federation and thus wanted his head—and his team's heads—on a silver platter.

Now was the time for the Disasters to gain revenge for their shabby treatment. As soon as the bell rang, the Disasters were all over

After being double-crossed by their former manager Jimmy Hart, the Natural Disasters, Earthquake and Typhoon, challenged Tag Team Champions Money Inc., the Million Dollar Man and IRS.



their opponents. They clotheslined Money Inc. to the floor and doled out similar treatment when they re-entered the ring.

The Disasters were virtually unbeatable at *WrestleMania VIII.* They cleaned house. They double-whipped Money Inc. into one another from opposite corners of the ring and nearly crushed them with multiple splashes off the ropes.

Fearing for their lives and not wanting to chance the loss of the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Belts they so dearly held, the Mouth dragged a badly battered IRS from the ring and, with the Million Dollar Man, walked to the locker room.

Although Money Inc. lost the match via count-out, they retained their Tag Team Title, which was more important to them than anything else in the world.

EARTHQUAKE
YPHOON

The Disasters would have assuredly won the match and the belts had not Jimmy Hart literally pulled IRS out of the line of fire. The Disasters won the match by count-out.

The awesome Undertaker wrestled his former ally Jake "The Snake" Roberts at *WrestleMania VIII*. This was a memorable contest, one that World Wrestling Federation fans will not forget for years to come.

THE UNDERTAKER

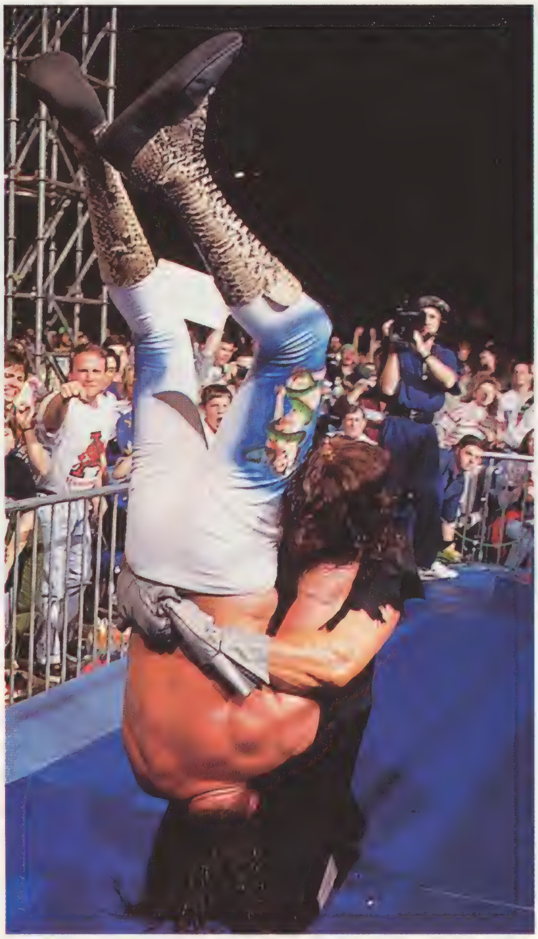
VS

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS

In what would turn out to be his final match in the Federation, Jake the Snake went head-to-head with the awesome Undertaker who, weeks earlier on the Federation Television Network, was besieged by the Snake on Paul Bearer's *Funeral Parlor*.

The Undertaker came into *WrestleMania VIII* with the hope of gaining revenge on his mind. He began by stalking the Snake, but Jake managed to slither under the big man's outstretched arms several times. Then Roberts bounced off the ropes and landed a fist to the Undertaker.

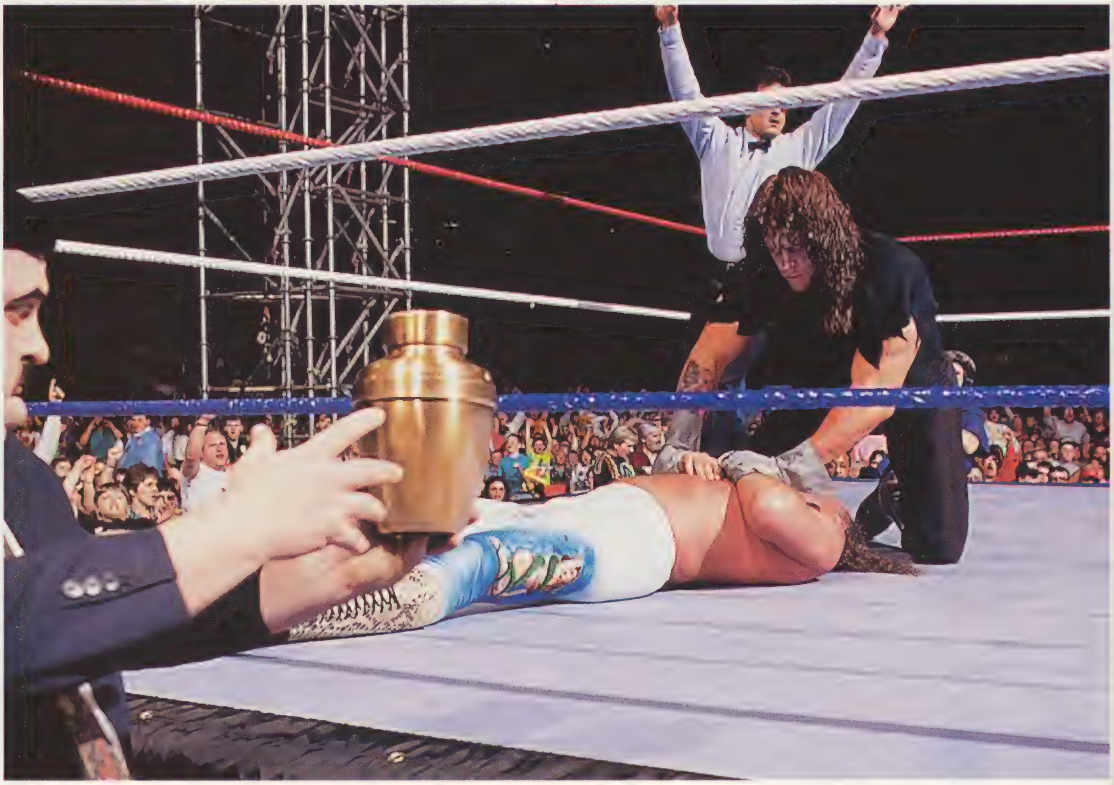
Although the Undertaker fell victim to a barrage of vicious punches and the devastating DDT, he was able to resurrect himself. The Snake's eyes rolled to the back of his head when the Undertaker wrapped his cold hand around his opponent's throat and squeezed for all he was worth.



The fierce action of the match could not be contained between the ropes. The Snake and the Undertaker then battled on the arena floor, where both men exchanged punches and boots.

Moments later, when the Snake tried to manhandle Paul Bearer, the Undertaker crept up on Roberts and buried him with the Tombstone on the arena floor. That was it. The Undertaker rolled the Snake under the ropes and covered him for the three-count and the victory.

This would be, as most people know, Jake the Snake's last match in the Federation.



After applying the Tombstone to the Snake on the arena floor, the Undertaker rolled him under the ropes and covered him for the win. The Snake has not been seen since this ring encounter.

In a fierce eight-man altercation, the team of the Big Boss Man, Virgil, Sgt. Slaughter and Hacksaw Jim Duggan squared off against the team of the Mountie, the Nasty Boys and the Repo Man.

BIG BOSS MAN
SGT. SLAUGHTER
HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN
VIRGIL

VS

NASTY BOYS
THE MOUNTIE
REPO MAN

This eight-man tag team collision was wild. Boss Man and company downed their foes with a four-way clothesline, which dropped them all. Duggan stung Nasty Boy Sags with an atomic drop and tagged Slaughter. He was double-teamed by both Nasty Boys but managed to come back. The end came when all eight wrestlers began brawling. It was chaos on a grand scale. During the battle, though, Virgil managed to cover Nasty Boy Knobbs after he was mistakenly waylaid by his partner. The referee registered the three-count for Virgil and his teammates.

An uncontrollable eight-way brawl took place in which bodies were hurled around the ring in all directions. During the melee, though, Virgil managed to cover Nasty Boy Knobbs for the pinfall.

EL MATADOR

VS

SHAWN MICHAELS

In 1992, future Intercontinental Shawn Michaels was just establishing himself as a world-renowned wrestling super-power. He was on his way to the top and did everything he could to get there.

With manager and favorite admirer Sensational Sherri by his side, Michaels entered the ring and taunted El Matador. It was a wrong move. El Matador was a cagey veteran who had competed in *WrestleManias I-VIII.*

Early in the contest, El Matador dazzled Michaels with a small package and a series of other polished moves. Upon realizing he was in a tough fight, Michaels got serious. He delivered a crushing spinebreaker and nearly incapacitated El Matador with a brutal side kick to the jaw.

The tide turned several times as the match progressed. El Matador scored with a flying forearm, the impact of which sent Michaels through the ropes and onto the concrete floor, by Sherri's feet. In the ring, El Matador punished Michaels with an inverted atomic drop and a flying fistdrop.

With this kind of momentum taking place, it looked as if El Matador was about to triumph. But Shawn had some tricks up his own sleeve. When El Matador attempted to slam his opponent in the ring from the apron, Michaels tugged on the top strand—which knocked the Mexican off balance—and shifted his weight, allowing him to fall atop El Matador for the pinfall.

The victory helped to raise Michael's stock in the Federation. After all, he defeated a man who was one of the greatest World Wrestling Federation superstars of

all time, a man destined to be included in the Federation's Hall of Fame. Later in 1992, Michaels went on to capture the Intercontinental Belt from the British Bulldog.

WrestleMania VIII, as it turned out, was El Matador's last *WrestleMania* contest to date. He has since gone into semi-retirement and is spending time with his family in Tocula, Mexico. So, it could be said that Michaels drove El Matador from the Federation. Of course, El Matador would disagree and would probably relish the opportunity to compete against Michaels in the future.

In the opening contest at *WrestleMania VIII*, former Intercontinental Champion El Matador went up against would-be Intercontinental titlist Shawn Michaels. Michaels eked out the victory.

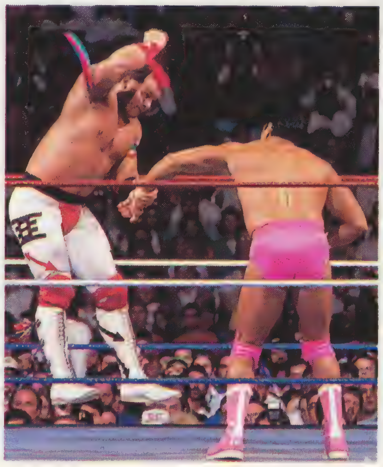
TATANKA

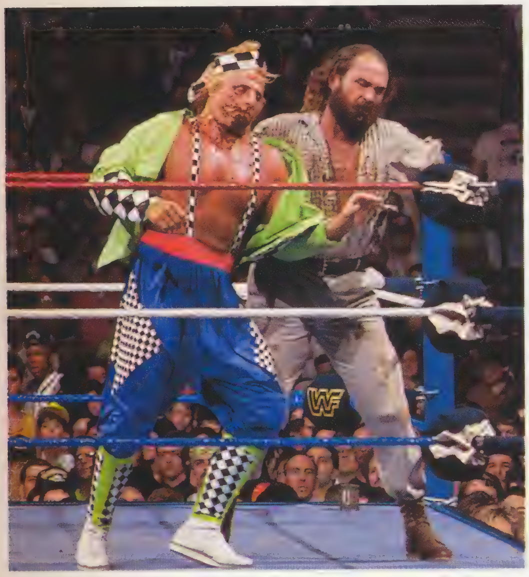
VS

THE MODEL RICK MARTEL

The Model Rick Martel, who has enjoyed a successful career in the Federation, seemed outmatched from the onset of his encounter with Tatanka. After succumbing to a hip toss and backbreaker, Martel—incensed to the point of confusion—charged Tatanka in a corner. Tatanka's cool head prevailed. He side-stepped Martel and watched as his shoulder struck the ringpost. Although Martel managed to sting Tatanka with an Irish whip and a clothesline, he was a dollar short and a day late. Tatanka absorbed the punishment and was declared the victor when he pinned Martel with a cross-bodyblock off the ropes.

The Native American Tatanka squared off against the Model Rick Martel. The match was full of action. Both athletes stunned one another with a dazzling display of moves and countermoves.





THE ROCKET OWEN HART

VS

SKINNER

In his first *WrestleMania,* Owen Hart met Skinner, who started by splattering him with tobacco juice before stunning him with a shoulderblock and his finisher, the Gatorbreaker. Skinner went for the pinfall, but Owen was able to kick out.

Skinner went to throw Owen over the ropes. In mid-flight, Owen snatched the top ropes and powered his way back into action. He crept up on Skinner and earned the win with a sunset flip. WF

The Rocket Owen Hart, then loved by millions of fans, met Skinner. The Rocket sustained a terrible beating but came back to beat the nasty Swamp Man with his infamous sunset flip.

WrestleMania VII SuperStars and Stripes Forever

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

Although this spectacular was held less than a year ago, *WrestleMania VII* seems part of another time. When the matches started, Sgt. Slaughter—now a proud bearer of the Stars and Stripes—was arguably the most hated man in the World Wrestling Federation and a staunch supporter of tyranny. Jake "The Snake" Roberts, on the other hand, had not revealed his demonic ways and was one of the most popular WWF competitors, having recently recuperated from an attack that left him partially blind. And Macho Man Randy Savage, one-half of "Wrestling's First Couple" with the lovely Elizabeth, was still a lonely bachelor in need of direction.

Like so many *WrestleManias* of times past, this night—March 24, 1991, at the Los Angeles Sports Arena—featured many people from the entertainment world. Among those on hand were actress Marla Maples and *Jeopardy* host Alex Trebek, who was the special ring announcer for the main event. Regis Philbin of *Live With Regis and Kathie Lee* also showed up and said "[*WrestleMania VII*] is the best-produced show on TV." Singer Willie Nelson opened *WrestleMania VII* with his rendition of *America the Beautiful*.

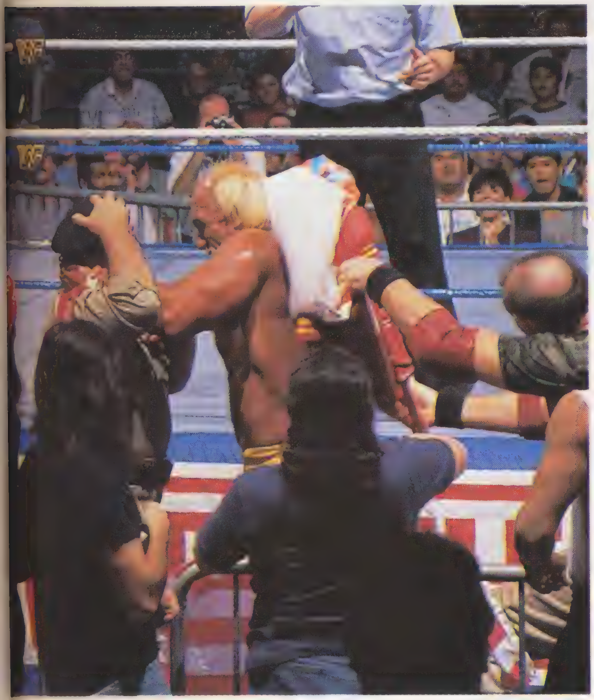
Other celebrities turned out. Millionaire Donald Trump was in attendance, as were television and screen actors Henry Winkler (aka Fonzie from *Happy Days*) and Chuck Norris. Would-be World Bodybuilding Federation Superstar The Legend Lou Ferrigno also attended *WrestleMania VII*.

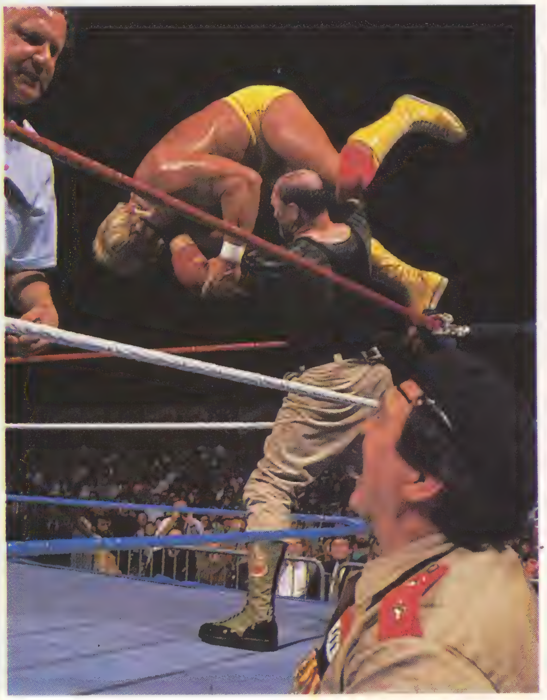
They all came to see the Hulkster tear into Slaughter. His chance came amid the kind of chaotic circumstances not uncommon in the World Wrestling Federation. At the previous *Royal Rumble*, Randy Savage—then calling himself the "Macho King" and managed by Sensational Sherri—worked out an arrangement with Sgt. Slaughter. If Slaughter was successful in his challenge against the Ultimate Warrior, the Macho King would be granted a title shot. Anxious to see his plan realized, Savage inserted himself into the action, attacking the Ultimate Warrior while the referee's attention was elsewhere. As a result, Sgt. Slaughter left the *Royal Rumble* with the WWF Championship.

But Savage was never to receive his promised match. The Warrior was so enraged by the interference that he demanded a "loser must retire" match against the Macho King at *WrestleMania VII*. Meanwhile, Hogan—infuriated over Slaughter's anti-American statements and association with known subversives like General Adnan and Colonel Mustafa—was anxious to get the Sarge in the ring and set him straight.

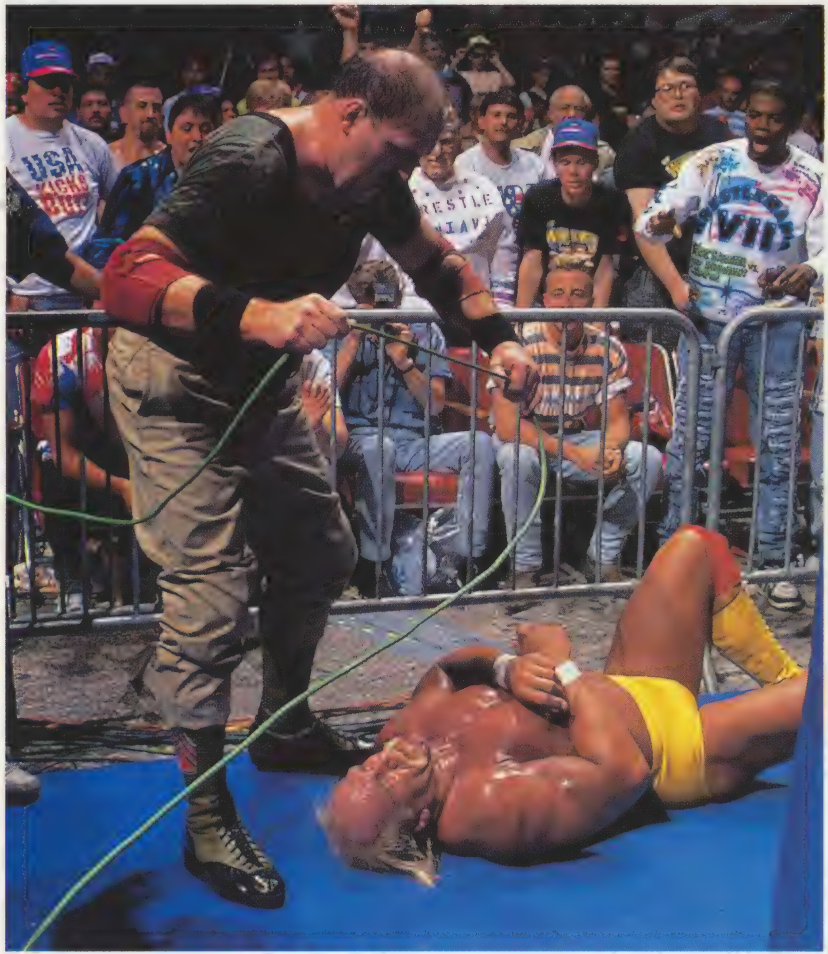
Here's the irony: The Hulkster—who, coincidentally, had defeated Mustafa (then known as the Iron Sheik) and Savage for his two respective WWF Title reigns—did not request the match because he wanted the gold. "*Hulkamania* can stand on its own, whether I have the championship or not," Hogan said. "The issue here is patriotism."

Indeed, patriotism was the prevailing theme of *WrestleMania VII*—so much so that the extravaganza came to be labeled "SuperStars and Stripes Forever."





The Hulkster battled Sgt. Slaughter in the main event at *WrestleMania VII*. Slaughter had won the belt from the Ultimate Warrior at the *Royal Rumble* several months prior to their showdown.



SGT. SLAUGHTER

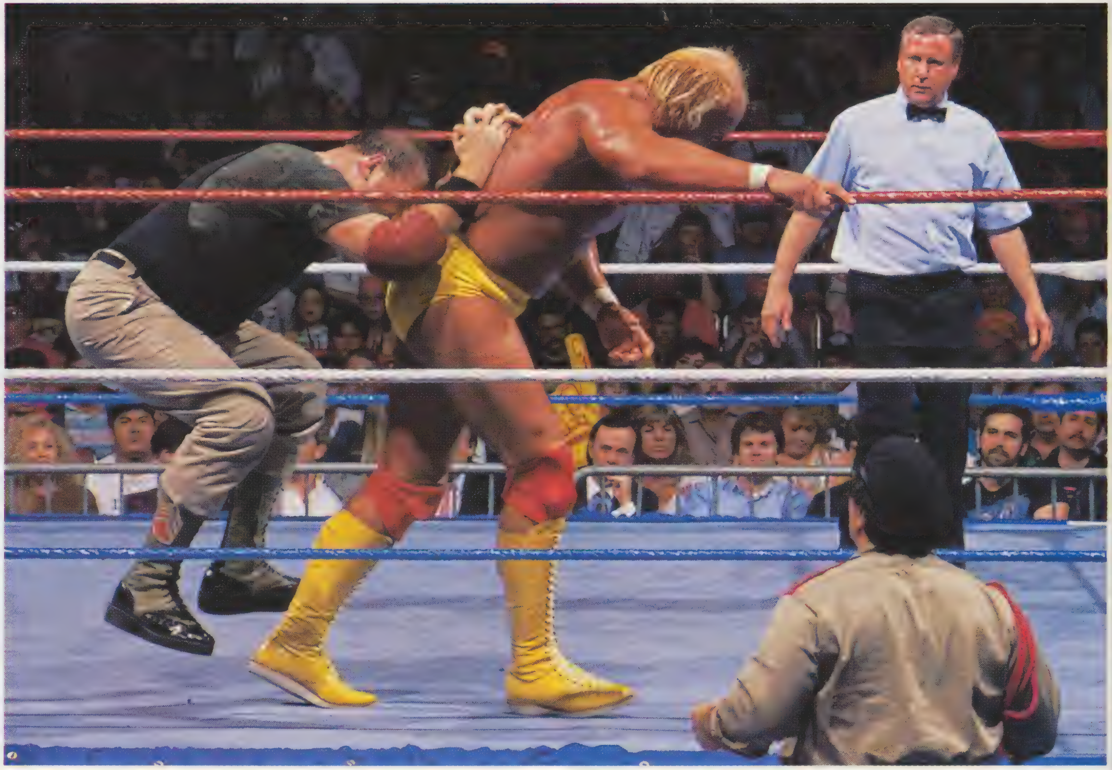
VS

HULK HOGAN

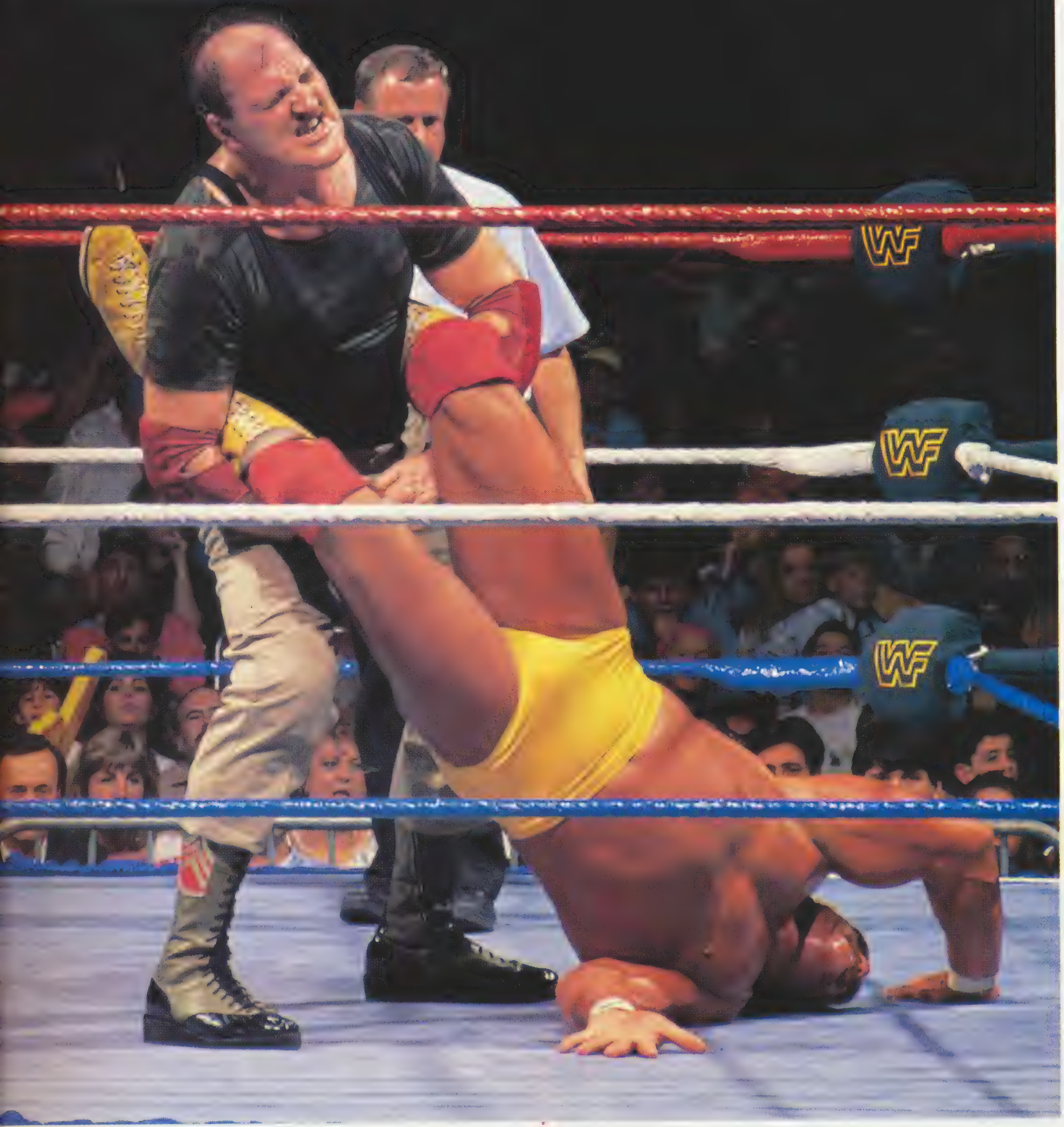
FOR THE WWF CHAMPIONSHIP

To emphasize that this was not just a fight for *Hulkamania* but for America as well, Hogan marched down the aisle holding the red, white and blue aloft. Once the flag was in a safe place, the Hulkster forgot about ceremony and let his temper spark his actions. Upon viewing the Sarge and his manager, General Adnan, in their military uniforms, Hogan rocketed toward the pair like a torpedo, sending them scurrying to try to find safety outside the ring.

Once the battle resumed between the ropes, Hogan switched gears, wearing his adversary down through wrestling know-how. After muscling Slaughter to the mat, the Hulkster placed him in a painful side-headlock. The Sarge broke the hold by pushing Hogan into the ropes. Hogan rebounded toward the champion but was prepared for



It was a bruising confrontation. The action spilled to the floor where Slaughter choked Hogan with a television cord. In the ring, Slaughter was relentless. He struck with punishing axhandles.



what would come next. Concentrating on his balance, the beloved challenger weathered a shoulderblock, refusing to let the move knock him down. Next, the Hulkster countered with a shoulderblock of his own, sending Slaughter crashing to the mat.

The fight spilled outside the ring, where Adnan got involved in the fray and was battered by Hogan. But while the Hulkster was busy with the manager, Slaughter seized the lead—with the help of a chair. Although Hogan rallied back for a while in the ring, the Sarge managed to again lure his foe to the ringside area. There, Slaughter slammed the celebrated contender's head into a ring post and choked him with a television cable.

Slaughter pulled out all the stops in order to retain the WWF Championship. He ensnared Hogan in a painful Boston crab, but Hulk resisted and mounted a comeback.

Returning to the mat, the Sarge attempted to wrap things up by trapping Hogan in a Boston crab. The Hulkster fought free, but Slaughter was ready with more treachery. He bloodied his opponent with a chair to the cranium and very nearly scored a victory with a camel clutch.

But overconfidence would prove to be Slaughter's undoing. Believing that Hogan was too weak to defend himself, the Sarge attempted to humiliate the "Real American" by covering his body with the Iraqi flag. Outraged at this shameless tactic, the Hulkster reached down and found new strength. He rose to his feet and ripped up the enemy banner, then unloaded on Slaughter and finished him off with a legdrop and a pin.

Hogan had won the belt for a third time, but the Sarge was determined to continue the war. In the dressing room after the match, Hogan was jumped by Slaughter, who tossed fire in the winner's face. Eventually, the Hulkster's burns healed, and he went on to give his enemy several more thrashings. Each confrontation seemed to humble Slaughter more and more until he made a complete turnaround, renouncing his anti-American views and becoming a full-fledged Hulkamaniac.

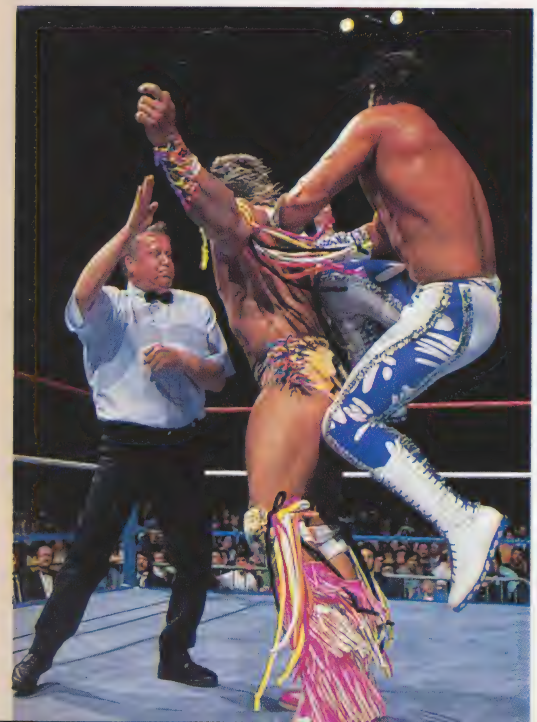
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

VS

MACHO KING RANDY SAVAGE

This battle of former World Wrestling Federation Champions would have been a classic based simply on the quality of the talent that was packed into the squared circle. But what made the contest unforgettable was the stipulation that the loser would agree to retire from wrestling and the touching post-match reunion between Savage and his future bride, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth had been at Savage's side for most of his WWF title reign. But when he turned on partner Hulk Hogan shortly before *WrestleMania V* and treated Elizabeth scornfully, she left. With tears in her eyes, she



watched him arrogantly proclaim himself the Macho King of the squared circle and take on Sensational Sherri— dubbed "Sensational Queen Sherri" at the time—as his manager.

Savage was on a destructive path, and Elizabeth could do nothing to stop him. She was alarmed when his interference cost the Ultimate Warrior his WWF Championship at the *Royal Rumble* and concerned when the Macho King promised to forfeit his career if he lost at *WrestleMania VII.*

But losing may have been the setback that saved Savage.

The Macho King almost won the match on several occasions—at one stage, hitting his foe with the dangerous flying elbow five times—but Warrior refused to accept defeat. Even when the Macho King set up his opponent by positioning him in front of the ringside guardrail and prepared to smash him from the top rope, Warrior wouldn't quit. He moved out of the way of his flying adversary, and it was Savage who collided with the steel

With a full head of steam, the Hulkster won the match and the title for Old Glory. In other action, the Macho King battled the Warrior in a Career Match.

barrier. Within seconds, the Macho King was reduced to a commoner. Unable to fight back, he was dragged into the ring and effortlessly pinned. Now—as per the conditions of the contest—his career was officially over, and Sherri was not very happy. She ran into the ring, kicked her protégé and slammed his head into the mat. Watching from afar, Elizabeth could no longer endure the Macho King's spiral to the bottom. Summoning up extraordinary courage, she raced down the aisle, pounced on Sensational Queen Sherri and—relying more on emotion than strength—hurled the hated manager to the ringside floor.

Slowly, Savage came to and grasped the poignancy of the situation. He had nothing to offer Elizabeth now, and still she fought for him. Feeling grateful for her help and

The Warrior prevailed, and thus Savage lost his career. This enraged Sensational Queen Sherri, who charged the ring and abused Savage before the eyes of the world.

ashamed of his abandonment of the woman who truly loved him, he swept Elizabeth into his arms and said, "I'm sorry."

Five months after *WrestleMania VII*, the Macho Man and Elizabeth were married. Three months after that, he was reinstated. In his more candid moments, Savage concedes that his loss to the Ultimate Warrior was a blessing in disguise.

As he puts it, "Sometimes, you have to hit rock bottom to go to the top of the world."

THE HART FOUNDATION

VS

THE NASTY BOYS

FOR THE WWF TAG TEAM TITLE

In this clash between the new and old guard, Nasty Boys Knobbs and Sags—thugs from the gritty streets of Allentown, Pennsylvania—attempted to unseat the established pair of Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart. With the help of manager Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart—who, ironically, had advised the Hart Foundation early in their careers—the Nastys were successful in scoring a shocking upset.

Jimmy Hart had been bitter about his former protégés ever since they dumped him, and *WrestleMania VII* provided the chance for revenge. Although the Hart Foundation dominated most of the match, the manager's

Sherri would have continued with her thrashing had not Elizabeth raced to Randy's rescue. WWF Tag Team Champions the Hart Foundation put their title on the line against the Nasty Boys.

The Nastys and the Hart Foundation waged war. It was nip and tuck all the way until the Nasty Boys hit Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart with a motorcycle helmet to gain the victory.

interference turned the tide. After Knobbs was battered by his opponents' dreaded finisher, the Hart Attack, Neidhart covered him for the pin. But the Mouth of the South tossed his motorcycle helmet to Sags, who promptly bashed the Anvil. With Neidhart unconscious, Sags placed his weakened teammate's arm on their opponent's body. The referee counted to three, and the Nasty Boys were the new WWF Tag Team Champions.

In the aftermath of the match, the Har Foundation re-evaluated their respective careers, split up and went on to productive endeavors. Bret captured the WWF Intercontinental Belt at the following *SummerSlam*, an the Anvil formed a successful team with th Hit Man's brother, Owen Hart.

VIRGIL

VS

MILLION DOLLAR MAN TED DIBIASE

Until he was befriended by Rowdy Rodd Piper, Virgil had resigned himself to bein Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase's unappreciated manservant. With Piper's encouragement, Virgil learned to stand up for himsel and not surprisingly, soon he was the Millio Dollar Man's archenemy.

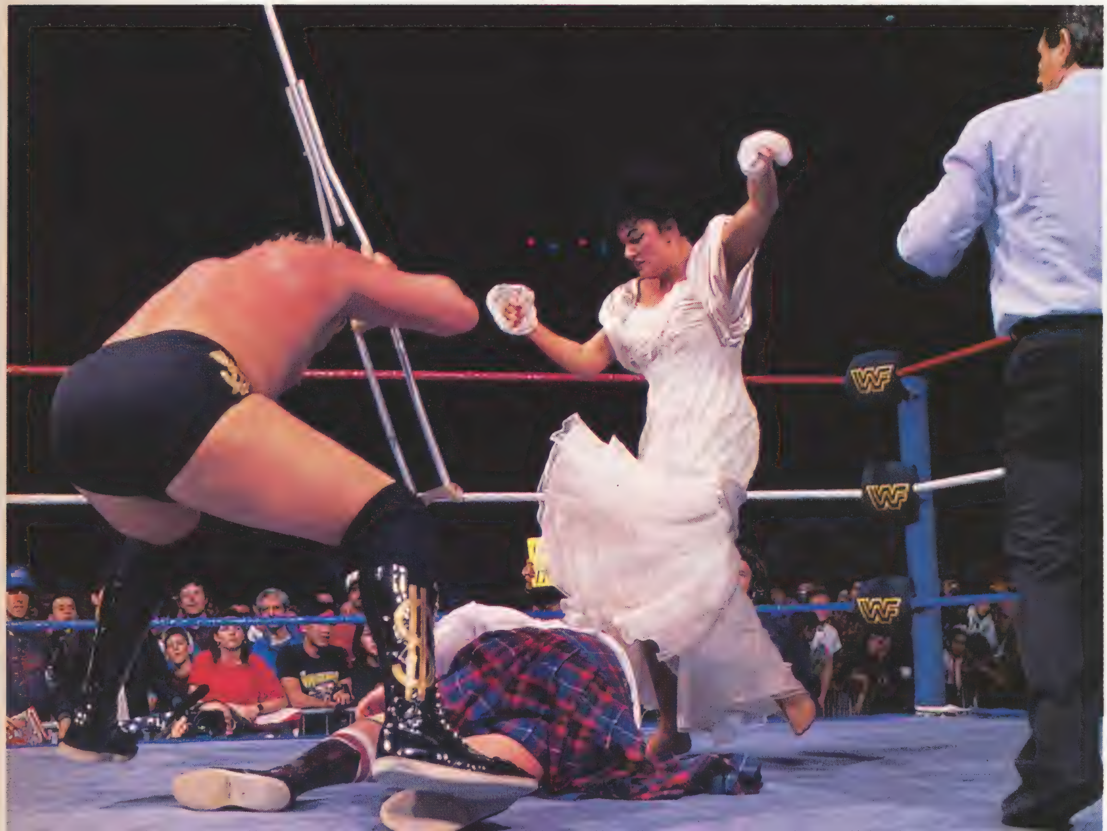
Piper—on crutches after a motorcycle accident a few weeks earlier—was in Virgil' corner for this match, playing the role o

coach for the former bodyguard. When the battle went to the arena floor, DiBiase expressed his resentment over the Rowdy One's presence at this match by knocking down the Scottish battler.

Hot Rod responded by pulling down the top rope moments later, just as the Million Dollar Man was scaling the turnbuckles. DiBiase fell to the arena floor, but he rose quickly and began pounding the injured Piper.

As this was occurring, Virgil was still in the ring—scoring a victory as the referee counted out DiBiase.

But the fireworks were far from over. The Million Dollar Man placed Virgil in the Mil-



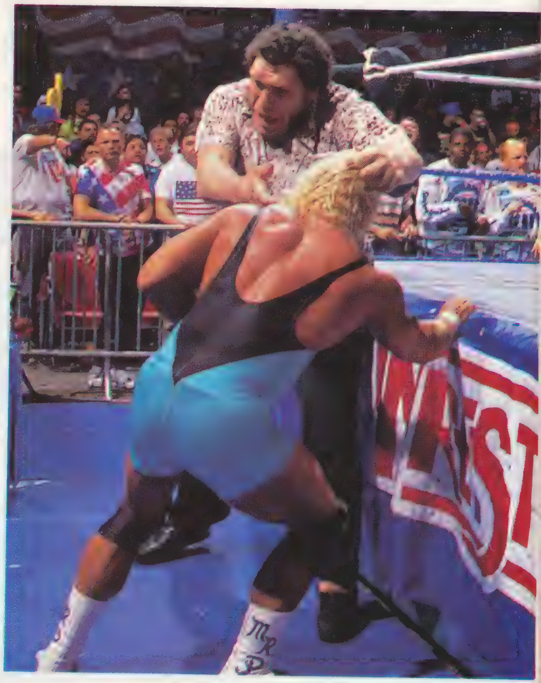
Virgil battled DiBiase at *WrestleMania VII*. The former valet tore into DiBiase with clotheslines, but the Million Dollar Man came back with a piledriver. Afterward, DiBiase and Sherri battered Virgil's cornerman, Hot Rod.

lion Dollar Dream after the bell, but Piper intervened by whacking DiBiase with his crutch. Sensational Sherri—without a protégé, following her earlier altercation with Savage—came to ringside and assisted the Million Dollar Man in brutalizing Piper. Virgil grabbed his friend's crutch and chased the pair away. Then he returned the enormous moral support he had received from Piper by encouraging Hot Rod to rise to his feet and helping him to the dressing room.

MR. PERFECT
VS
BIG BOSS MAN
FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

Although Boss Man had never looked finer, he could not overcome the constant meddling by Perfect's manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan and other devious allies.

Boss Man was in the greatest danger on the arena floor, where he advanced on the taunting Heenan but was surprised from be-



Virgil escorted Piper from the ring. The Intercontinental Title was up for grabs when the then-champ Perfect battled the Boss Man. Andre assisted the Boss Man when Perfect started with his shenanigans.

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hind and driven into the steps by Perfect.

Andre the Giant, a former Heenan protégé who had grown to despise the manager, came to ringside to even the odds, cracking Perfect with the Intercontinental Championship Belt. Boss Man covered his foe, but the titlist's cohorts Haku and the Barbarian stormed the ring. Although Boss Man and Andre fought them off, the belt still remained in Mr. Perfect's possession.

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS

VS

THE MODEL

It is hard to believe that Roberts was adored by the fans during this match, but he was. Several months earlier, Jake had been temporarily blinded by the Model's cologne Arrogance and enjoyed the sympathy of most wrestling observers.

Since the attack had forced Roberts to live in darkness for several weeks, he wanted the Model to suffer the identical experience. Therefore, the specifications of the match required both men to wear hoods that blocked their vision. Jake had the advantage because he had lived without sight a short time earlier and was largely guided through the bout by the fans' cheers.

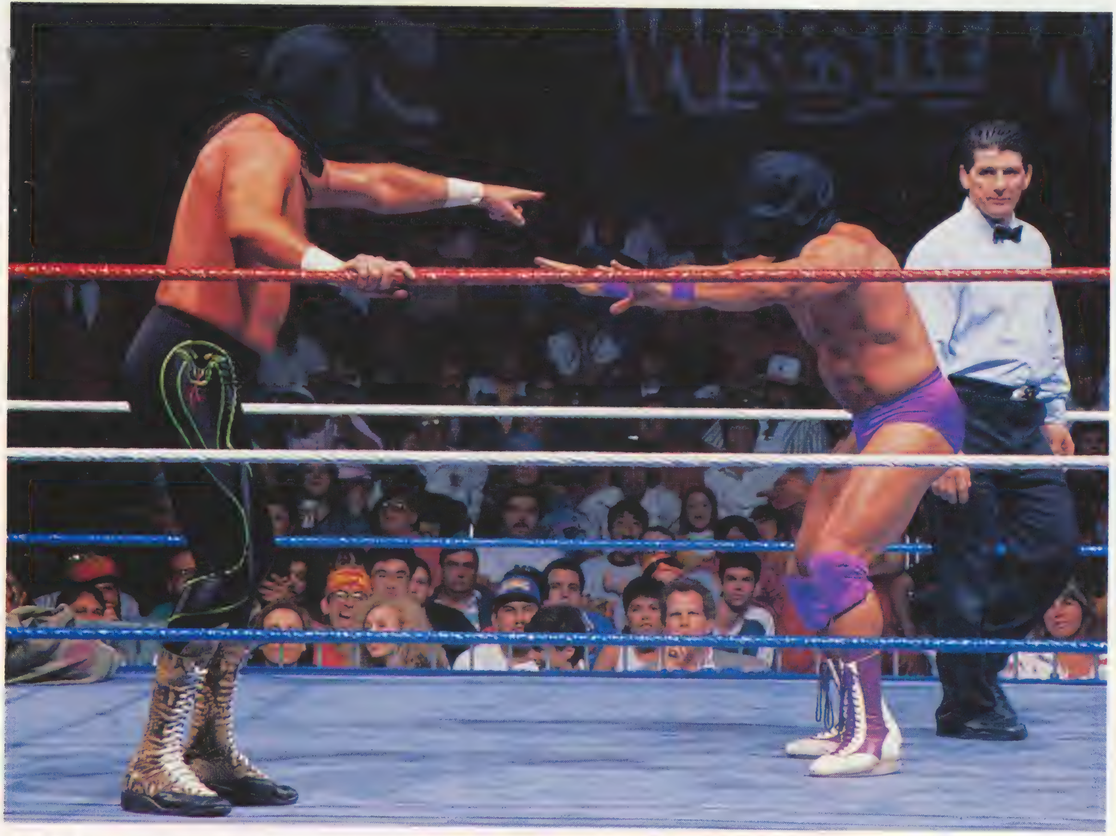
Still, the Model nearly won by clamping on his distinct version of the Boston crab. Showing remarkable fortitude, Jake the Snake kicked out of this perilous hold and beat his opponent with a DDT.

SUPERFLY JIMMY SNUKA

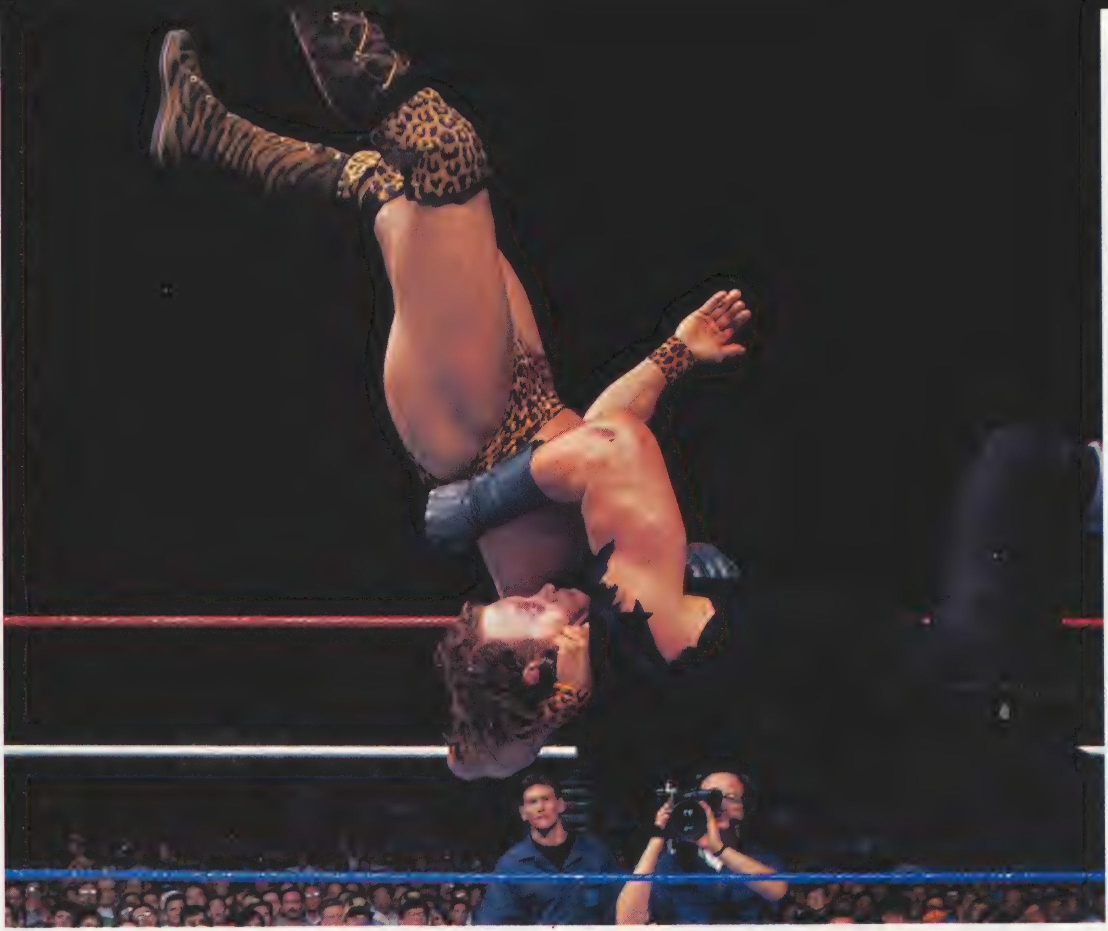
VS

THE UNDERTAKER

In an omen of things to come, the Undertaker vanquished his opponent in shock-



In a Blindfold Match, Jake the Snake battled the Model Rick Martel. Their heads hooded, both athletes staggered around the ring until the Snake defeated his opponent with the DDT.



The Undertaker made his *WrestleMania* debut and buried the Superfly. The Mountie, like the Undertaker, also made his *WrestleMania* debut. He was barely able to get by Tito Santana in a controversial confrontation.

ing fashion. The experienced Snuka's best moves barely fazed his gruesome competitor, who won with the Tombstone piledriver—the same move that would assist the Undertaker in snagging the WWF Championship from Hulk Hogan at the *Survivor Series* eight months later.

TITO SANTANA

VS

THE MOUNTIE

In his first solo *WrestleMania* appearance, the Mountie stunned spectators with a relatively easy win over the former Intercontinental titlist. Of course, the Mountie was assisted by his 4,000-volt cattle prod, which disabled Santana when the referee's back was turned. Resolving to rebound from the quick loss, Santana journeyed to his Mexican homeland a short time later, returning to the WWF as the gifted El Matador.

Earthquake, managed by Jimmy Hart, made easy work out of the Hammer. The Texas Tornado stormed into Los Angeles and quickly unleashed his fury on Canadian strongman Dino Bravo.

GREG "THE HAMMER" VALENTINE

VS

EARTHQUAKE

Former Intercontinental Champion Greg Valentine also had a tough night at this *WrestleMania*. While he fought valiantly against his gigantic foe, size overcame courage in this match. Earthquake won with his characteristic vertical splash.

TEXAS TORNADO

VS

DINO BRAVO

Bravo, an accomplished powerlifter, believed he could flush out the Tornado with strength maneuvers, but the handsome Texan was feeling pretty mighty himself. He kept on fighting after being harmed by Bravo's side-suplex and backbreaker, eventually disabling his opponent with a clawhold and copping the win with the Twisting Texas Tornado discus punch.

TENRYU & KITAO

VS

DEMOLITION

In a war of legends, Demolition—the team that changed the face of tag team wrestling in the WWF—went against Japanese immortal Tenryu and sumo great Kitao. Smash and Crush enjoyed the advantage of refined double-teaming techniques, not to mention the insight of the Oriental psyche supplied by manager Mr. Fuji. But the Nipponese duo was not deterred and as-

tounded the skeptics when Smash fell victim to Tenryu's power bomb-pin combination.

BRITISH BULLDOG

VS

THE WARLORD

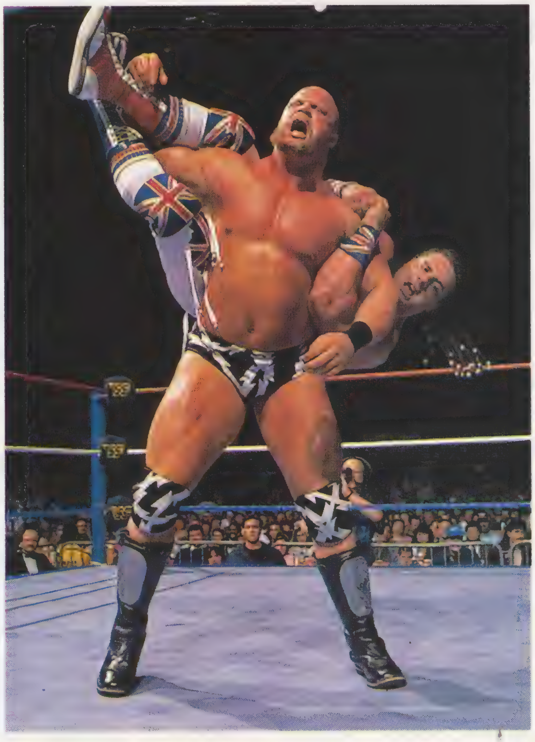
In what may have been a contest to determine the WWF's premier powerhouse, the Bulldog emerged with his arm raised. After sustaining a devastating bearhug, the rugged Englishman relied on strength and grit to muscle his way out of a full-nelson attempt, refusing to allow the Warlord to lock his fingers. Seconds later, Warlord was draped over Bulldog's shoulders and run across the ring for the powerslam that would bring the burly Britisher to triumph.

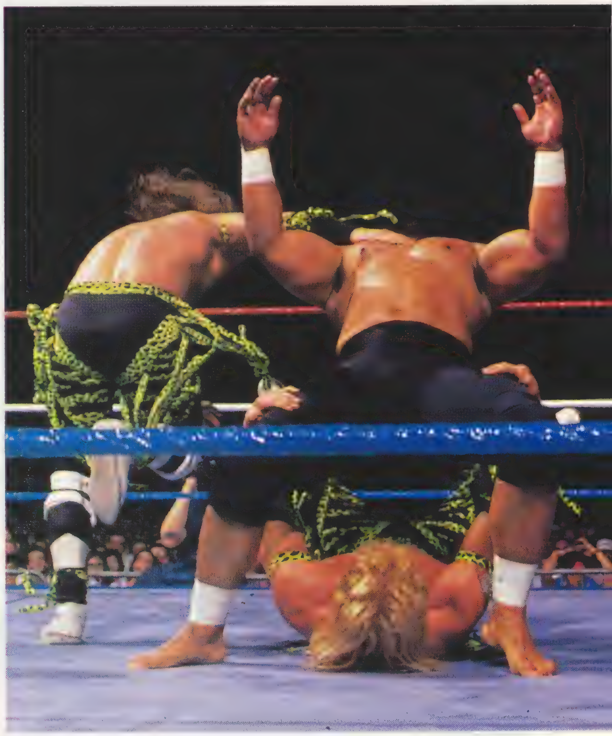
THE ROCKERS

VS

BARBARIAN & HAKU

Rockers Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty went airborne in this exciting tag team match, but they also stunned their brawny opponents by disarming them with brawling tactics. The Rockers got the duke when Jannetty scaled the ropes and blasted Haku with a dropkick. After Haku struggled back to his feet, Michaels came off the opposite turnbuckle with a high cross-bodyblock for the win. Strangely, the Rockers could not maintain their momentum after *WrestleMania VII*. Less than a year later, they were bitter foes.





Japanese team Tenryu and Kitao upended Demolition, Crush and Smash, in a thrilling contest. The British Bulldog powerslammed his way to a decisive victory over the massively muscled Warlord.

The Ultimate Challenge

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO

WrestleMania VI was one of the most thrilling *WrestleManias* ever to take place. On April 1, 1990, a record crowd of 67,678 fans jammed SkyDome in Toronto to see a magnificent WWF extravaganza. Millions more watched *WrestleMania VI* on pay-per-view television throughout the world.

HULK HOGAN

VS

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

FOR THE WWF CHAMPIONSHIP

The main event, which pitted WWF Champion Hulk Hogan against then-Intercontinental Champion Ultimate Warrior, is considered one of the most legendary battles in World Wrestling Federation history.

The reasons are simple. The opponents were evenly matched in popularity, power, strength and height. They possessed similar wrestling styles and were two of the most dominant wrestlers ever to set foot in a WWF ring. They were destined to clash, and SkyDome was their battleground.

From the start, the Hulkster and the Warrior wanted to test each other's physical attributes. The Warrior initiated contact with a hard shove. The Hulkster didn't budge and retaliated in kind. The two champions looked at each other, circled and engaged in a lockup. Their triceps and upper back muscles strained as they jockeyed for an advantageous position. After several moments, the Warrior tapped into his reserve of power and heaved the Hulkster into a corner.

The Hulkster rebounded and locked hands with his raging opponent in a test of strength. They anchored their feet to the canvas and struggled against each other's power. Using his measureless strength, Hogan tried to bring his foe to his knees. But the Warrior resisted the pain.

He turned the Hulkster's knuckles over and brought him to his knees. The Warrior bore down. He increased the pressure and twisted the Hulkster's knuckles in awkward directions, which caused excruciating pain.

However, just when it seemed as if Hogan was out of it, he rallied. He powered his way up and was able to ensnare his opponent in the same maneuver.

Not wanting a stalemate, the Hulkster quickly broke the hold and took the Warrior to the canvas with a leg sweep. He followed up with several stinging elbows to the solar plexus. These blows would have incapacitated some of the toughest wrestlers, but the Warrior was a different individual. He shook off the blows, sprang to his feet and crisscrossed the ring ropes. The two muscular athletes bounced from side to side until the Warrior deposited Hogan on the floor with a devastating clothesline. The Warrior wouldn't relent. He jumped to the outside

At *WrestleMania VI*, the Hulkster put the WWF Title on the line against then Intercontinental Champion Ultimate Warrior in a match that was known as the Ultimate Challenge.

This was a classic confrontation. The Hulkster and the Warrior bounded into one another with simultaneous clotheslines. They battered each other with thunderous blows, boots to the face and bearhugs. However, when the smoke cleared, the Warrior stood as the new WWF Champion.

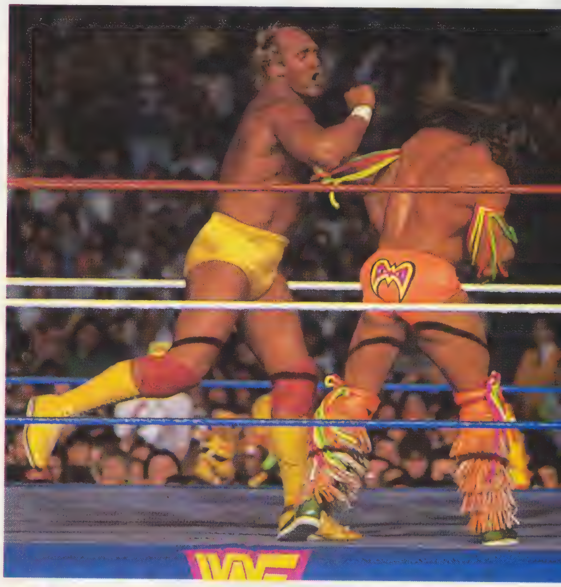
and unleashed with big boots to the champion's leg. The Warrior threw the Hulkster back into the ring and continued with the same strategy.

At that point, Hogan and the Warrior lost their tempers. They laced into one another with eye rakes, punches and clotheslines. The Hulkster snatched the advantage. He backed the Warrior into a corner and unloaded with a salvo of punches to his temple. However, Hogan stayed in control. He stung the Warrior's body with a crushing bodyslam and elbow smashes.

The Warrior reeled from these blows, and the WWF Champion knew it. Hulk tried to end the match with a small package, but the Warrior still had too much power. Knowing this, the Hulkster then attempted to sap the Warrior's strength. He straddled his opponent's back and cinched a chinlock on the Warrior. The Hulkster pulled back with all his incredible power.

The Warrior showed signs of weakening. Sensing this, the Hulkster kept up the momentum. He hammered the Warrior with punches, kneelifts and clotheslines before leveling him with an explosive back-suplex.

Amazingly, the Warrior absorbed these blows and rallied by running the ropes. After bounding off the side strands, the Warrior extended his thick arm for a clothesline. The Hulkster had the same idea, and the two flattened one another with simultaneous blows.



Both athletes were unconscious as referee Earl Hebner put the count on them. Just before he reached the count of nine, however, the combatants shook off the cobwebs and got their second wind. They jumped to their feet and resumed this classic battle.

The Hulkster ripped into the Warrior with shuddering axhandles and blows to the midsection. The Warrior dismissed the pain and fired back with clotheslines and a brutal series of Irish whips. These tactics took their toll on the Hulkster's lower lumbar region.

The Warrior, after seeing Hogan favor his back, took advantage of the situation and tied up Hogan in a punishing bearhug.

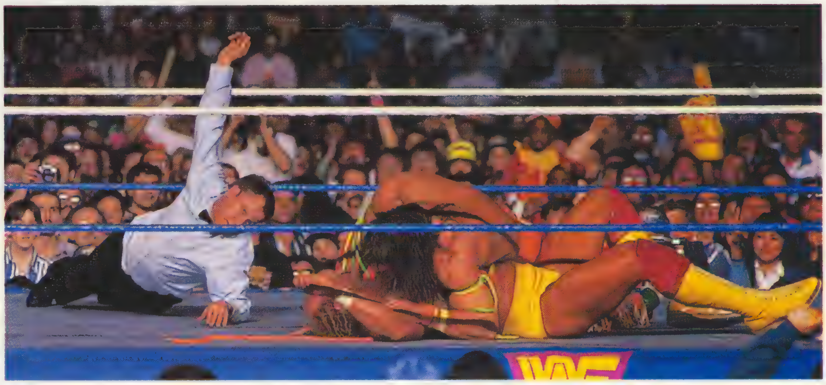
The Warrior squeezed for all he was worth. The Hulkster's arms fell limp, and he was barely able to draw a full breath. He looked ripe for the pickings, and everyone at SkyDome—along with countless others around the globe—feared that the future of *Hulkamania* was in jeopardy.

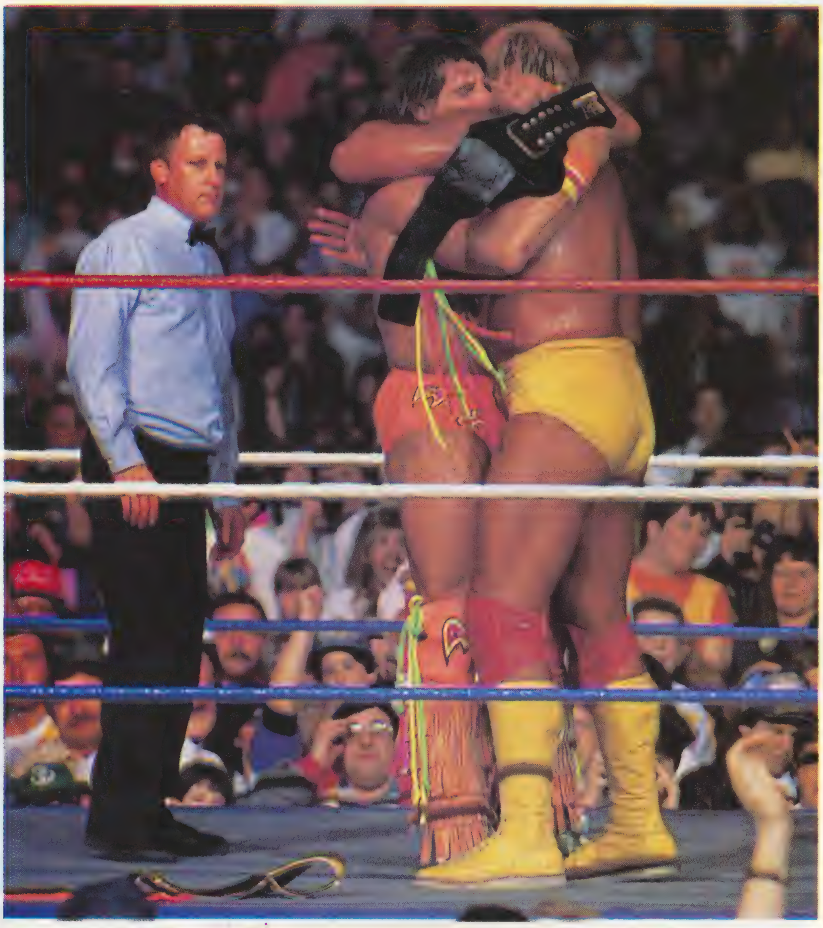
But it wasn't. Responding to the support of his Hulkamaniacs, the Hulkster threw back his arm and nailed the Warrior with a fierce punch. The Warrior broke the hold and began to run the ropes. He bounced off one side and attempted to blast the Hulkster with a thunderous shoulderblock.

However, referee Hebner was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was sandwiched between the behemoths and rendered unconscious. But the war didn't stop. The two superstars clashed with increased intensity. The Hulkster fired punches and drove the Warrior's skull into the canvas, staggering him. Sensing victory, the Hulkster went for the pin.

The attempt was futile because Hebner was still out cold. Frustrated, Hulk walked over to the fallen arbiter and helped him. This, as it turned out, was a wrong move because the Warrior quickly recovered and snatched Hogan in a back suplex that almost crushed his spinal column.

At that point, the match had erupted into a war of epic proportions. The tempo shifted back and forth. The Hulkster scored with an





Hulk knew he'd been beaten by the better man and embraced the Warrior. The WWF Tag Team Title changed hands when Demolition defeated the Colossal Connection. Afterward, Andre split with Haku and former manager Bobby Heenan. In another tag team encounter, Dusty Rhodes and Sapphire wrestled Savage and Queen Sherri.

elbow to the throat before he and the Warrior traded blows on the arena floor. When the action resumed in the ring, the Warrior stung the Hulkster with a clothesline and—using his inhuman strength—snatched Hogan in a gorilla-press.

Raging, the Warrior looked as if he couldn't be stopped or contained. He bounced off the ropes and knocked the wind out of the Hulkster with a big splash. The Warrior, exulting with his battle cry, thought that was enough to pin the Hulkster's shoulders to the canvas for a three-count.

The Warrior, though, thought wrong. As the referee struck the mat for a two-count, Hulk powered his way free. Shaking with fury, the Hulkster repelled several Warrior blows and floored the chiseled competitor with a vicious boot to the chin. The Warrior went down, and the Hulkster prepared for victory. He shot himself off the ropes, leapt in the air and aimed a lethal legdrop at the Warrior's sternum.

However, before he made contact, the Warrior—using his acute survival instincts—moved out of harm's way in the nick of time. The Hulkster crashed down on the canvas and appeared severely jolted. The Warrior sprang to his feet, propelled himself off the ropes and big-splashed the Hulkster with, as *WWF Magazine* put it in the June 1990 issue, "shuddering impact." The Warrior reached out and hooked Hogan's leg as the referee counted aloud: "One, two...three!"

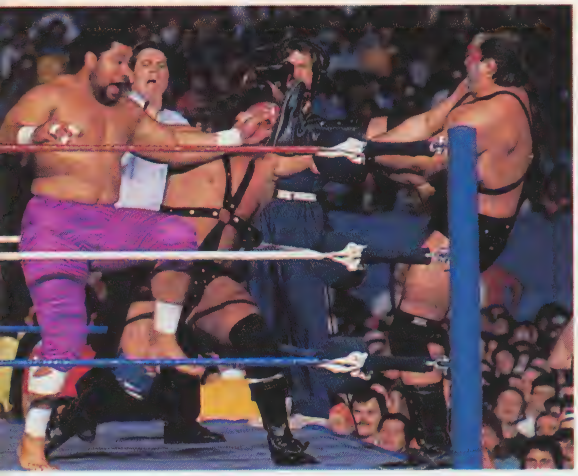
The record audience at SkyDome erupted into cheers as the Warrior triumphed. The Hulkster—for the first time in his illustrious career—had been outwrestled before a *WrestleMania* crowd. However, Hogan knew he had been bested by a real man. With that, he demonstrated his true spirit as a human being when he handed over his WWF Championship Belt to the Warrior and embraced him for a match well-wrestled. As a result of this supreme act of sportsmanship, the Ultimate Warrior and Hulk Hogan emerged as better men. The Warrior took a step closer to greatness, while the Hulkster took a step closer to immortality.

THE COLOSSAL CONNECTION

VS

DEMOLITION

FOR THE WWF TAG TEAM TITLE



Demolition, Ax and Smash, captured the WWF Tag Team Title for an unprecedented third time at *WrestleMania VI*, when they defeated Bobby "The Brain" Heenan's former duo, the Colossal Connection, consisting of Andre the Giant and Haku.

Ax and Smash were determined to win the belts at all costs. Several months earlier, the Connection defeated Demolition for the tag team title on *WWF Superstars of Wrestling*. As a result, Ax and Smash negotiated a rematch at *WrestleMania VI*.

Ax and Smash tore into their opponents the second they hit the ring. Smash belted Haku with big fists and elbows. He escalated his assault with a back-bodydrop and a double axhandle. Haku couldn't take the assault and wisely tagged in the Giant.

Ax and Smash also attacked him with blinding rage. They staggered the "Eighth Wonder of the World" with a double clothesline and then did the same to Haku for good measure.

Demolition didn't seem to lose the edge until Andre trapped Smash and held back his arms. This gave Haku the opportunity for which he had been looking. Seeing Smash helpless, Haku, who was taking orders from Bobby Heenan at ringside, wound up his lethal foot and drove it toward Smash's jaw. Smash ducked, and the powerful blow tagged the Giant's face.

The powerful thrust-kick staggered the Giant. He fell backward and found himself entangled in the ropes. Demolition took advantage of the situation. Smash lifted Haku and dropped him across a knee. Ax then scaled the second turnbuckle and finished off Haku with the Demolition decapitation elbow.

That was all she wrote. Ax covered the Polynesian powerhouse for the pinfall, and the rest was *WrestleMania* history. Demolition had won the WWF Tag Team Title.

After the match, however, the Colossal Connection disconnected their ties when a furious Heenan stormed the ring and began blasting the Giant. The manager ripped into Andre and directly blamed him for the loss. Heenan ranted and raved and, after making a few more remarks, lost his cool and slapped Andre across his face.

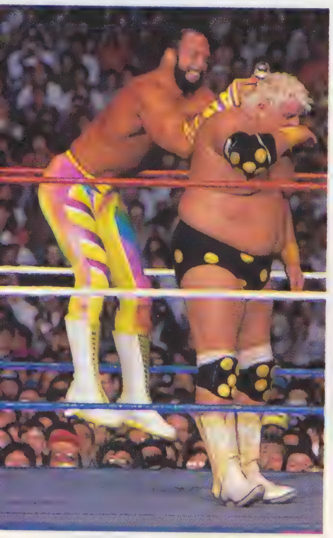
That was a grave mistake. Burning mad, the Giant grabbed the Brain and belted him in the chops. The manager nearly came out of his shoes. Seconds later, the Giant gave Haku some of the same when he attempted to aid Heenan. Andre ended the match no longer under Heenan's control.

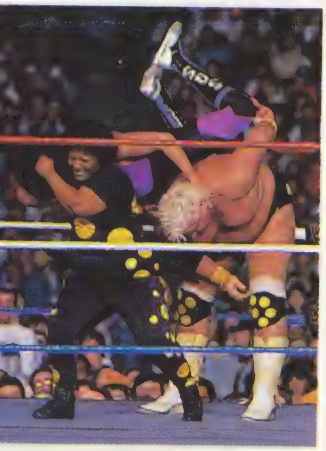
DUSTY RHODES & SAPPHIRE

VS

MACHO KING RANDY SAVAGE & QUEEN SHERRI

For the first time in *WrestleMania* history, the WWF sanctioned a mixed tag team match. It pitted Macho King Randy Savage and his former manager, Queen Sherri, against Dusty Rhodes and Sapphire. Miss





Elizabeth, who at that time wasn't on speaking terms with Savage, stayed in Rhodes and Sapphire's corner and supported them during the encounter.

The match was a wild affair. Although the rules clearly stated that the men and women were prohibited from wrestling one another, it didn't happen that way. On several occasions, Dusty and Sherri engaged in battle as did Savage and Sapphire.

The end came when a fired-up Sapphire hurled the WWF's Queen to the arena floor. Trying to avoid Sapphire's fury, Sherri stayed away from the ring for as long as she could. But Elizabeth interceded and put a stop to Sherri's shenanigans.

She grabbed Sherri from behind and threw her back into combat. Once she found herself between the ropes, Sherri was livid. She screamed. She threatened. She even tried to batter the demure manager with several roundhouse punches.

Elizabeth cleverly ducked the blows and pushed Sherri backward over a kneeling Sapphire. Surprised, Sherri fell on her back to the canvas. Sapphire seized the moment and tied up her rival to register the three-count.

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS

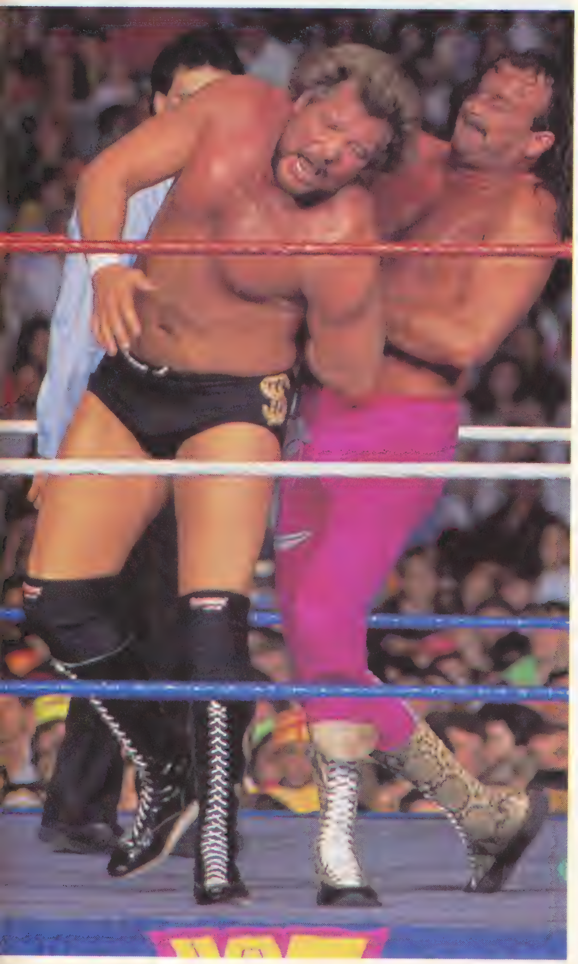
VS

THE MILLION DOLLAR MAN TED DIBIASE

FOR THE MILLION DOLLAR BELT

Jake the Snake, who at the time was one of the most popular athletes in the WWF, challenged the Million Dollar Man to a match with the Million Dollar Belt on the line at *WrestleMania VI.* The match was a bruising contest from the word go, as both athletes exchanged a variety of hard-hitting tactics, maneuvers and holds.

The match concluded when DiBiase and the Snake battled outside the ring. As they traded blows, the referee began to count. Just



before the arbiter reached the 10-count, Virgil—then the Million Dollar Man's bodyguard—grabbed his employer and threw him between the ropes.

Because he was within the ropes before the 10-count, the official awarded the match to DiBiase. However, his troubles were only beginning.

Enraged over the defeat, the Snake charged the ring and peppered DiBiase and Virgil with a barrage of blows. These tactics dazed DiBiase and his bodyguard. Knowing this, the Snake snared DiBiase in a front facelock and demolished him with the destructive DDT.

Still fuming mad, Jake then grabbed DiBiase's wad of cash and passed out $100 bills to lucky ringside fans. Afterward, he regained the ring and—taking a page out of the Million Dollar Man's book—stuffed a Ben Franklin down DiBiase's throat.

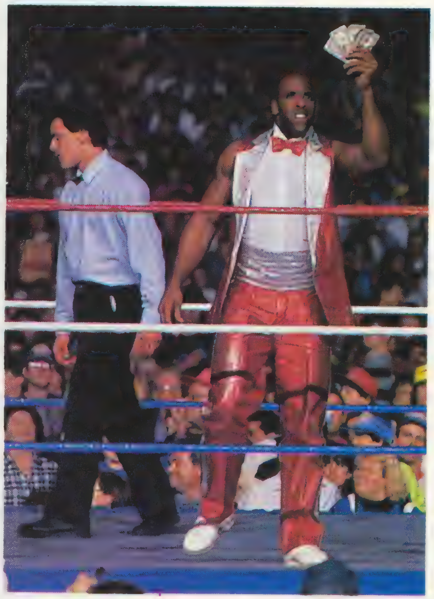
BIG BOSS MAN

VS

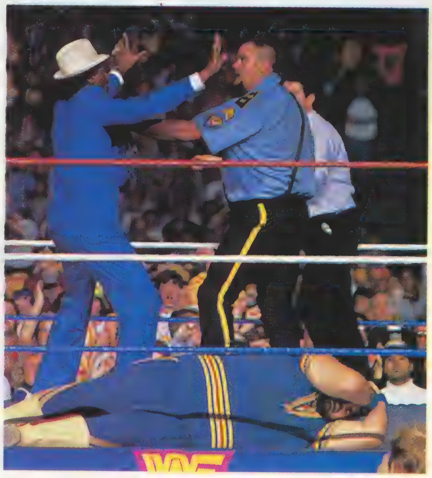
AKEEM

When the Million Dollar Man finally regained consciousness, he jumped to the arena floor and hid underneath the ring as the Big Boss Man ran down the aisle for his match against former Twin Tower tag team partner Akeem. It was all part of DiBiase's plan because when the Boss Man was close enough to him, the Million Dollar Man revealed himself and jumped the brawny lawman.

DiBiase pummeled the Boss Man on the arena floor with a pulverizing clothesline and a group of elbows. From there, he hoisted up the Boss Man and slammed him onto the cement. This was revenge, DiBiase later said, because the Boss Man refused to accept a cash bribe



The mixed tag team contest—a first of its kind in *WrestleMania* history—was a barn-burner. Savage crashed into Rhodes with big axhandles off the ropes, but it wasn't enough to stop him and Sapphire, who went on to eventually win the bout. In heated matchups, DiBiase beat the Snake via count-out, and the Boss Man tangled with Akeem.



from DiBiase several months prior to *WrestleMania VI.*

However, the Boss Man rallied against his tormentor. He rebounded and fiercely rammed the Million Dollar Man into the ringpost. This proved to be too much for DiBiase, who, along with Virgil, stumbled back to the locker room.

By the time the Boss Man stepped between the ropes, he was furious. He took out his anger on Akeem. He whacked his former partner with an array of tactics before doing him in with the dreaded spike slam. When Akeem's former manager Slick, who happens to be an evangelist these days, stuck his nose in the proceedings after the match, the Boss Man gave him a Southern-style beating.

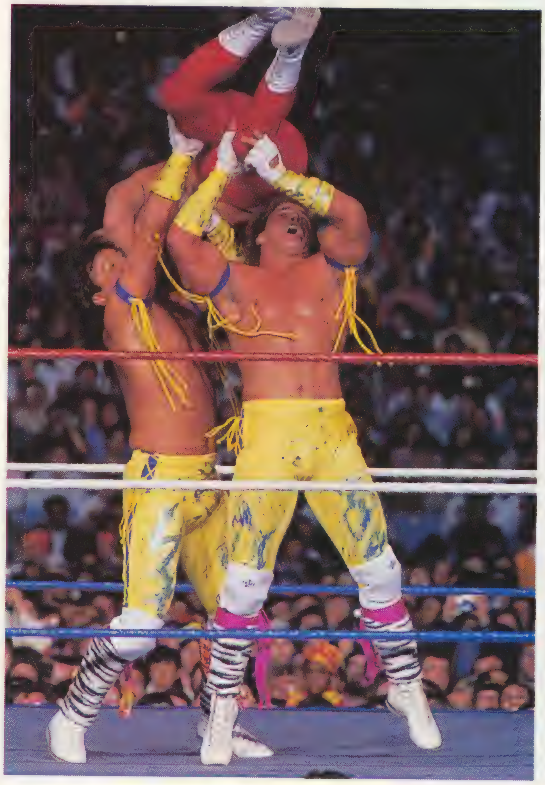
THE ROCKERS

VS

THE ORIENT EXPRESS

One of the most electrifying tag team confrontations in WWF history took place at *WrestleMania VI* when the now-defunct Rockers—Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty—battled Mr. Fuji's original Orient Express, Sato and Tanaka.

The Rockers used their impeccable teamwork and quickness to throw their cagey opponents off-balance. They stung Sato with



double slams and double elbows off the ropes. Tanaka received much of the same when the Rockers press-slammed him.

Reeling from the fast-paced, high-impact attack, the Express retreated to the arena floor in order to talk strategy with Fuji. This didn't work. The aggressive Rockers simultaneously sprang over the top ropes and bombed the Japanese duo.

At that point, Fuji put a devious game plan to work for his boys. When Jannetty bounced off the ropes, the manager hooked the youngster's leg with a cane, impeding his balance. Jannetty blew his top and pursued the manager onto the arena floor. Sato, however, came to Fuji's aid. He crept up on Jannetty and threw a packet of salt in his face. Blinded, Jannetty reeled at ringside until he collapsed over the barricade. He was unable to get back to the ring and was counted out.

ROWDY RODDY PIPER

VS

BAD NEWS BROWN

Bad News was considered a vicious brawler and a man with a mean streak a mile wide. However, he met his match at *WrestleMania VI* when he squared off against Rowdy Roddy Piper, one of the most famous—or infamous—brawlers in WWF history. Both of the wrestlers showed their true colors the moment the bell sounded.

They rolled across the mat, pounding and chopping one another. When they rose, Bad News and Piper exchanged a volley of vicious blows. Brown got the better of Piper after he headbutted him.

From there, Brown pulled out all the stops. He removed a turnbuckle pad and attempted to drive the Rowdy Scot's forehead into the steel ringpost, which, if he had, would have unquestionably resulted in a severe laceration. Fortunately for Piper, he reversed the whip and then tagged Brown with a right to the noggin.

Soon afterward, the action spilled over to the arena floor, where they brawled around ringside. They wanted to destroy one another so badly that neither athlete heard the referee count them out.

HERCULES

VS

EARTHQUAKE

When Hercules battled the enormous 469-pound Earthquake at *WrestleMania VI*, many people said that they were sure the monster would go down.

Hercules almost fulfilled the prophecy. He raced into battle and stunned the big man

The Boss Man defeated his former partner. In a memorable tag team altercation, the Rockers clashed with the Orient Express, Sato and Tanaka. They scored a count-out victory. Bad News and Hot Rod waged a fierce battle against one another. Their battle lust earned them a double count-out when all was said and done.

Hercules fell to the massive Earthquake after a titanic struggle. The Barber, in his last *WrestleMania* appearance, outwrestled Mr. Perfect and snipped off the Genius' hair. The Hart Foundation destroyed the Bolsheviks, Nikolai Volkoff and Boris Zhukov, in under a minute, and Hacksaw Jim Duggan went head-to-head with Dino Bravo.

with a flurry of rights and lefts. He kept the momentum going in his favor when he fired off a series of wicked clotheslines, one of which knocked Earthquake to one knee.

On a roll, Hercules got a bit overzealous. He tried to score with a backbreaker, and Earthquake cleared his head and rammed an elbow into the Mighty One's eye socket. Dazed, Hercules hit the canvas and was at Earthquake's mercy.

Not wasting a second, Earthquake pounced on Hercules and battered him with a tremendous elbow. This served to soften up Hercules for the kill. Earthquake bounced off the ropes and pulverized Hercules' torso with a vertical splash. That was it. Hercules suffered a rare loss and bruised ribs.

BRUTUS "THE BARBER" BEEFCAKE

VS

MR. PERFECT

In his last *WrestleMania* appearance to date, Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake—just months prior to his tragic parasailing accident—took on would-be Intercontinental Champion Mr. Perfect. This bout was a rematch from 1990's *Royal Rumble.*

The match was nip and tuck from the moment it started, and many times both athletes almost defeated each other.

As the match wore on, Perfect's adviser, the Genius, interjected himself. At one point, when the Barber had Perfect clamped in a sleeperhold, the Genius slid a metal scroll under the ropes while the referee was distracted. Perfect grabbed the object and cracked it over Brutus' skull.

Beefcake was hurt, and Perfect seized the opportunity to open fire on Beefcake with boots, kneelifts and rabbit punches. These blows hurt Beefcake, but they weren't enough to incapacitate him.

After absorbing the flurry of violence, Brutus regained his senses and slingshot Perfect into a corner, where he smashed his head against the steel turnbuckle.

The cold-cocked Perfect lay collapsed and spread-eagled on the canvas, where Beefcake

scored the pin. The Genius also felt Beefcake's wrath. He dragged the adviser into the ring, produced his barber's shears and snipped away most of his locks. The Genius, like the late Adrian Adonis in *WrestleMania III*, left the ring humiliated.

THE HART FOUNDATION

VS

THE BOLSHEVIKS

The Hart Foundation, Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart, scored the third fastest victory in the history of *WrestleMania* when they ousted the Bolsheviks, Boris Zhukov and Nikolai Volkoff.

The Harts meant business the moment they stepped into the squared circle. While Volkoff crooned the Russian national anthem, the Foundation went on the rampage. The Hit Man hammered Volkoff out of the ring, while the Anvil hoisted Zhukov for the Foundation's trademark finishing tactic, the Hart Attack clothesline.

When he saw that Zhukov was firmly in place, the Hit Man bounced off the ropes and crashed into the Russian's body with a tremendous clothesline. Hart then pinned Zhukov before he even had a chance to remove his warmup jacket.

This marked the second *WrestleMania* in a row that a match lasted under one minute. At *WrestleMania V*, if you recall, the Red Rooster pinned Bobby "The Brain" Heenan in less than 40 seconds.

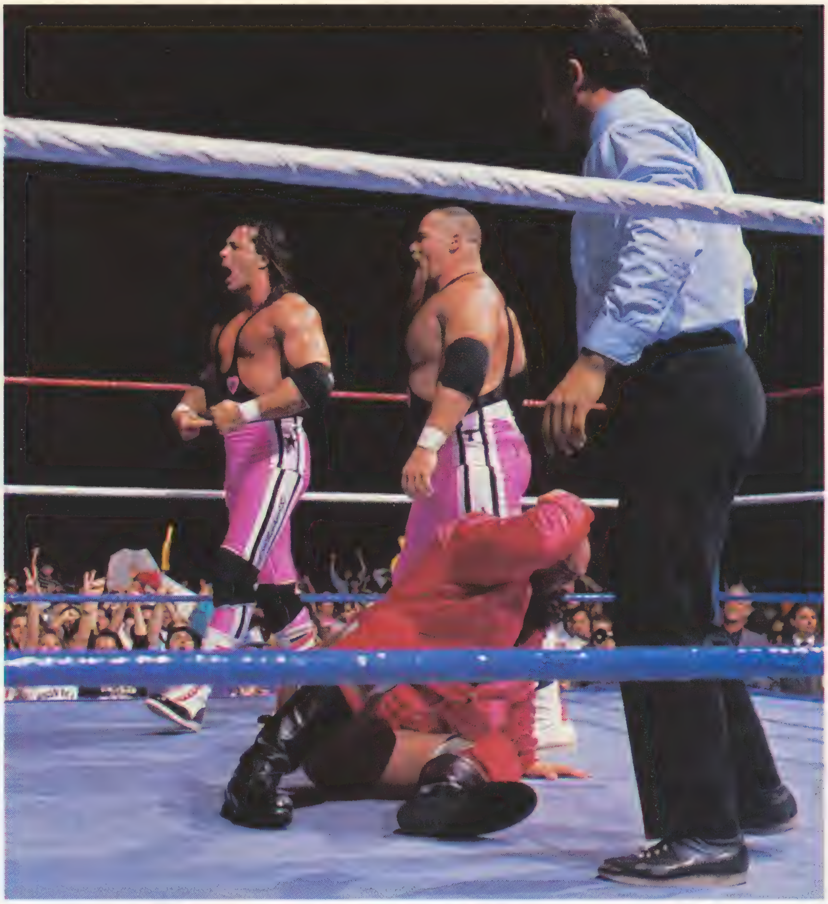
HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN

VS

DINO BRAVO

Hacksaw Jim Duggan and Dino Bravo feuded for several years in the World Wrestling Federation. Their feud climaxed when they faced off at *WrestleMania VI*.

Duggan came into *WrestleMania VI* with a



Duggan beat Bravo but was besieged by Earthquake. Rude did in Snuka with the Rude Awakening, the Barbarian clotheslined his way to victory over Sanatana, and the Model bested the Birdman. Added attractions included an interview between Rona Barrett and Elizabeth, Robert Goulet's rendition of *O Canada* and Rhythm & Blues' release of *Hunka, Hunka—Honky Love.*

full head of steam. He attacked Bravo from every angle. He dropped him with roundhouse rights and supercharged clotheslines. Just when victory was in Hacksaw's sights, however, Bravo's ally, the Earthquake, interrupted the match.

Earthquake distracted Hacksaw just as he was ready to put away Bravo with the charging clothesline. While Earthquake and Duggan argued, Bravo's manager, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, threw his man Duggan's two-by-four. It never reached its target.

Hacksaw caught the lumber and smacked it across Bravo's back, knocking him into listlessness. Although Duggan scored the pinfall and the winner's purse for the match, Bravo and his crew scored the final blow. Earthquake rumbled into the ring, and with Bravo by his side, he jumped Duggan from behind. Earthquake then tried to end Hacksaw Jim Duggan's career by flattening him with a series of vertical splashes.

SUPERFLY JIMMY SNUKA

VS

RAVISHING RICK RUDE

WrestleMania VI marked the first time the Superfly had participated in a *WrestleMania* match since 1985. However, it didn't turn out to be a successful venture.

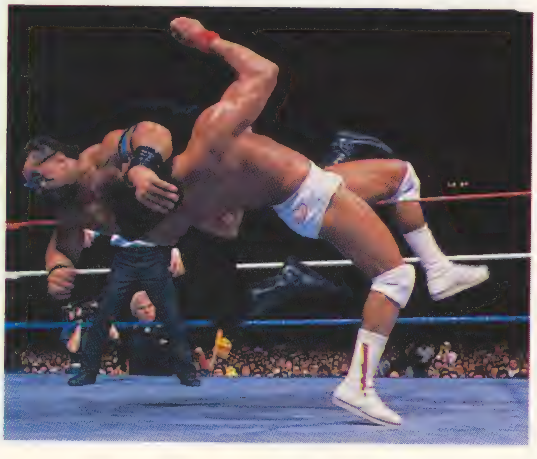
Ravishing Rick Rude was a crafty WWF competitor. He used his skills and quick thinking to his advantage. Early on, though, Rude absorbed several dropkicks and a flying headbutt. The Superfly, after seeing his first headbutt land, scaled the top turnbuckle and attempted another.

However, Jimmy went to the well one too many times. Superfly leapt off, but his target moved out of the way at the last second. Rude immediately recovered and ended the match in near record time when he nailed Snuka with a standing reverse neckbreaker he used to call the Rude Awakening. This secured Rude his only *WrestleMania* victory.

TITO SANTANA

VS

THE BARBARIAN



Tito Santana, a man who has competed in every *WrestleMania* since its inception, wrestled his heart out when he confronted the huge Barbarian at *WrestleMania VI.* Santana came out of the chute with his fists and feet blazing. He tried to gain a fast victory with a few high cross-bodyblocks.

On the second attempt, however, the massive Barbarian caught the Mexican wrestler—who now calls himself El Matador—in midair. Santana freed himself with three stiff rights to the temple. The Barbarian hit the mat, and Santana came down on top of him in a pinning position.

Unfortunately for Santana, the referee was out of position and couldn't register the pinfall. Wanting to win, Santana rebounded with increased fervor. The Barbarian, though, took all that Santana had to offer and minutes later stopped Santana dead in his tracks with a devastating clothesline off the top ropes. The Barbarian notched the win.

KOKO B. WARE

VS

THE MODEL RICK MARTEL

The Model Rick Martel, who at one time co-held the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championship with Tito Santana, outclassed the Birdman Koko B. Ware. At the beginning of the match, the Model gained the advantage with a textbook suplex and a backbreaker.

Although Koko made several attempts to retaliate against Martel, Martel was obviously the better wrestler. The end came when Koko propelled himself at Martel coming off the turnbuckles. Martel ducked, and the Birdman crashed onto the canvas. With Koko down, the Model applied his feared finishing tactic, the Boston crab. That was it. Koko submitted. Martel holds one of the few submission victories in *WrestleMania* history because of this outcome.

CELEBRITIES

In typical *WrestleMania* tradition, some of entertainment's most recognized celebrities showed up at *WrestleMania VI.* World-renowned singer Robert Goulet kicked off the festivities with his rendition of *O Canada*, gossip reporter Rona Barrett interviewed Miss Elizabeth and comedian-songwriter Steve Allen played the piano alongside the Bolsheviks.

Speaking about songwriters, Jimmy Hart—who once was a member of the '60s rock band the Gentrys—and his former tag team Rhythm & Blues released their hit single *Hunka, Hunka—Honky Love* at *WrestleMania VI.* The Bushwhackers, like most of the people present at SkyDome, couldn't stand the song. They came into the ring, took Rhythm & Blues' acoustic guitars and smashed them to pieces.

WrestleMania V The Mega-Powers Exploded

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO

For the second year in a row, the World Wrestling Federation presented a *WrestleMania* in the glittering Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino Convention Center on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, where some 21,000 fans assembled on April 2, 1989, to witness the grand event of *WrestleMania V.* Countless others saw this now-perennial spectacular on pay-per-view cable television and at closed-circuit venues the world over, boosting the global audience well above the 10 million mark.

Along with the electrifying matches, there were other events that made *WrestleMania V* memorable, such as when Rowdy Roddy Piper hosted a live *Piper's Pit* with guests Brother Love and Morton Downey, Jr. And who can ever forget rap group RUN-D.M.C.'s singing a special *WrestleMania V* rap song? Who can fail to remember the appearance of Superfly Jimmy Snuka or Jesse Ventura's ranting and raving about Hulk Hogan's mega-hit movie *No Holds Barred* to the pay-per-view audience?

All those who watched *WrestleMania V* will never put this gigantic, glittering affair out of their minds. That's what makes *WrestleMania V* so awesome. For three electrifying hours, WWF fans sat on the edge of their seats, absorbing every moment of the action displayed under the bright lights of this springtime extravaganza. Fourteen matches—the most ever held at a single *WrestleMania*—delighted the throngs, especially when then-WWF Champion Macho Man Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan clashed in the blistering main event. This particular match, many contend, was perhaps the greatest physical encounter of modern times. And here's why:

MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE

VS

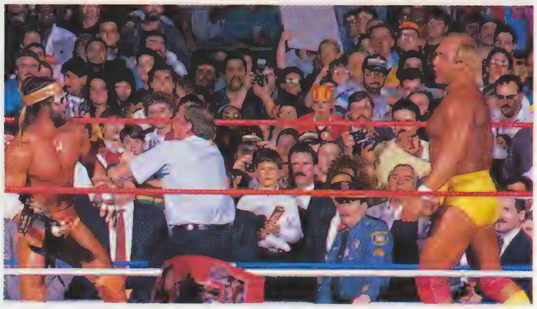
HULK HOGAN

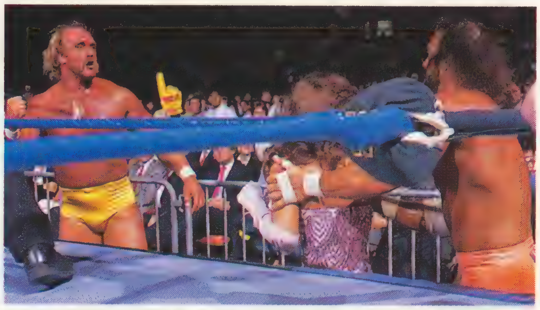
FOR THE WWF CHAMPIONSHIP

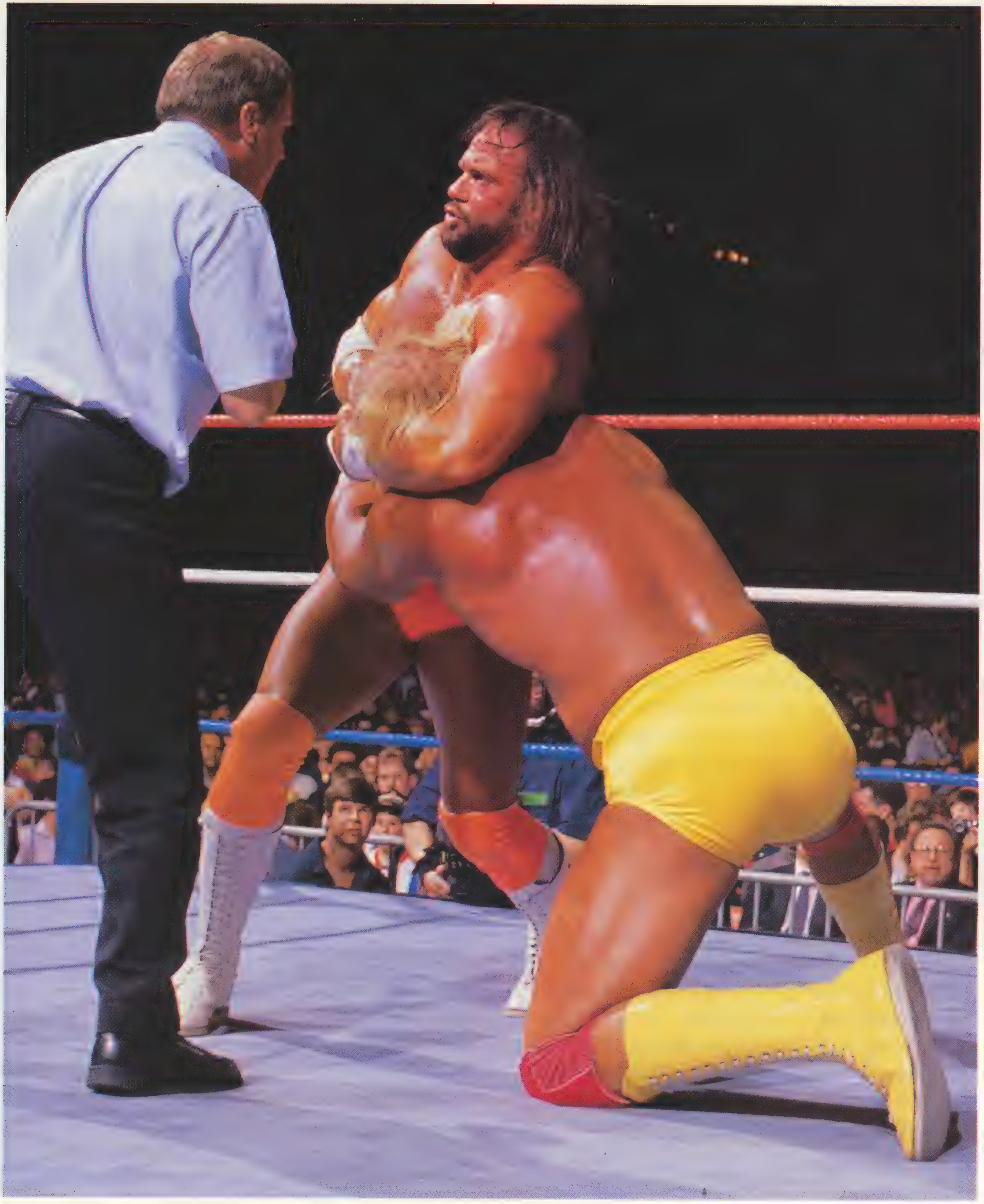
The tempo of the wrestling world had come to a momentary standstill when the Mega-Powers, Savage and Hulk, disintegrated with explosive impact in front of a nationwide audience February 2, 1989, on NBC television. Millions of viewers shook in horror when Savage brutalized Hogan in a medical treatment room deep inside the Bradley Center in Milwaukee, putting an end to the best tag team ever united. And Savage brought it all on himself.

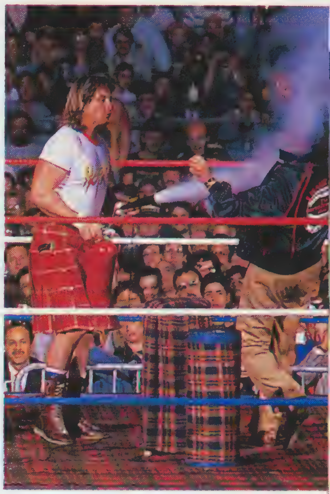
Ever since the Mega-Powers had formed, the Hulkster vowed that he would do anything to protect their manager, Miss Elizabeth. When Hogan later went on to say that he loved Elizabeth like a sister, the Macho Man brimmed over with jealousy. As time passed, Savage's jealousy of Hulk turned to hatred—and then to violence.

The showdown between the Mega-Powers

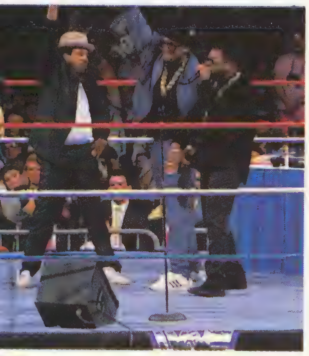


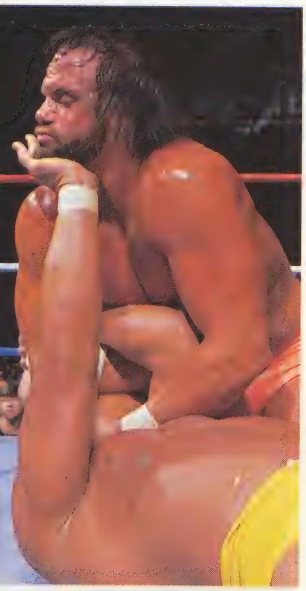






The Mega-Powers exploded at *WrestleMania V* when Savage and the Hulkster squared off. Early in the contest, Hogan chased the Macho Man onto the arena floor, where Savage used Miss Elizabeth as a shield. When the action returned to the confines of the squared circle, Savage kept the Hulkster down with an armbar.





Hogan, although badly cut, managed to power his way to his feet. Once up, he battered Savage with a series of rights before slamming his head into the turnbuckles. *WrestleMania V* also saw a battle between big mouths Morton Downey, Jr., and Roddy Piper, who dramatically extinguished Morton's cigarette. Then the rap group RUN-D.M.C. introduced a special *WrestleMania* rap.

took place at *WrestleMania V*. There, all the bad blood between Savage and Hogan was exposed for the universe to observe.

After a brief game of cat and mouse at the outset of this epic confrontation, Savage and Hulk locked up. Immediately, the Hulkster muscled the Macho Man to the mat. When Savage stood up, Hogan leveled him with a shoulderblock. The champion, however, was pumped up, and he retaliated by popping Hulk in the face while side-headlocking him.

Using his supreme strength, the Hulkster powered out of Savage's grip and pursued him to the arena floor, where the Macho Man placed Elizabeth in front of him to ward off an advancing Hogan. As was obvious by his actions, the Macho Man would use any tactic possible to beat his challenger, even if it meant jeopardizing Elizabeth's well-being. The referee noticed this and eventually ordered the charming manager back to the dressing room.

As the bout progressed, the two former partners regained the squared circle and locked up. Displaying his knowledge of wrestling fundamentals, the Hulkster brought the champion down with a combination armlock-to-facelock. From that point on, the two superstars exchanged a series of excellent maneuvers. Hogan side-headlocked Savage, who brilliantly broke the hold with a back suplex. After the Macho Man missed with an elbow, the Hulkster peppered the champion with a flurry of rights. Stung but ring-wise, Savage countered with an eye rake.

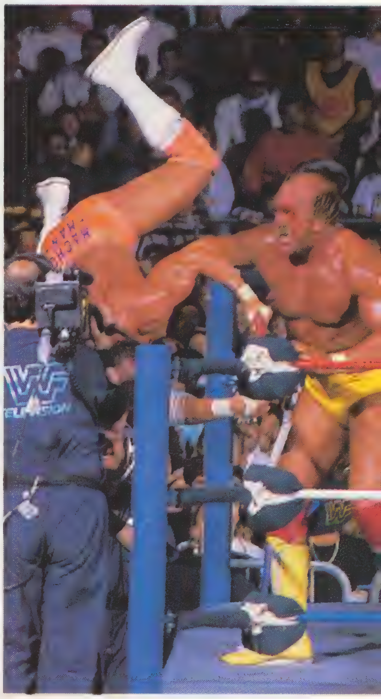
Then the champion took control, dropping an axhandle on the Hulkster's back and barring his arm when he fell to the canvas. The Macho Man squeezed Hogan's 24-inch python to the point that it almost appeared blue. Knowing that he had to free himself, the Hulkster used a leverage tactic to send the titleholder hurtling through the ropes.

The crowd's roars were deafening as Hulk threw the Macho Man back into the ring. There, Hogan slammed Savage's head from corner to corner. When the Macho Man dropped to the mat, the Hulkster, looking to further disable his opponent, let go a salvo of punishing elbows to the champion's neck. Picking up Savage, Hulk threw him to the ropes for a back-bodydrop. Anticipating this, the Macho Man kicked the challenger square in the eye and then followed up by clotheslining Hogan out of the ring.

The kick did a lot of damage. When the Hulkster collected his senses on the arena floor, he discovered a cut above his left eye, the result of the Savage boot.

At that point, Macho Man went for the jugular. Trying to sap Hulk's immense power supply, Savage caught Hogan in a reverse chinblock as he entered the ring. As blood and sweat trickled down the Hulkster's face, his well-chiseled body trembled from the pain. Not letting up, Savage tightened the grip, applying all the pressure he could.

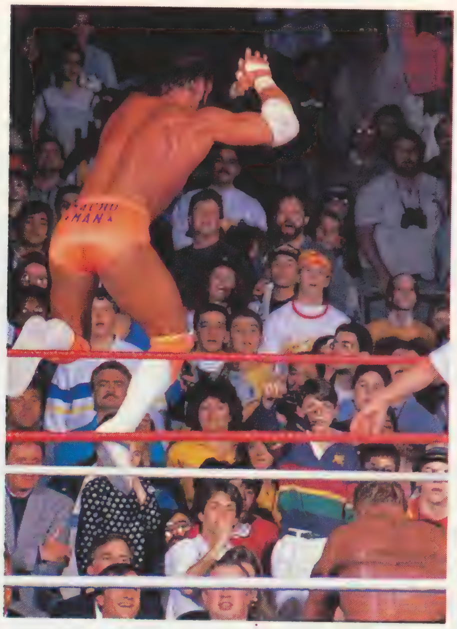
The fans, aware of Hulk's plight, began rallying behind the challenger. This was all Hogan needed to hear. A surge of adrenalin brought him to his feet, where he elbowed himself free and mustered enough momentum to shoulderblock the champion down. On a roll, Hogan jarred Savage's spinal column with a big atomic drop. Eyes glassy, the Macho Man sank to the canvas. Seeing Savage almost out of it, the Hulkster leapt up and pointed an elbow toward the champion's solar plexus.

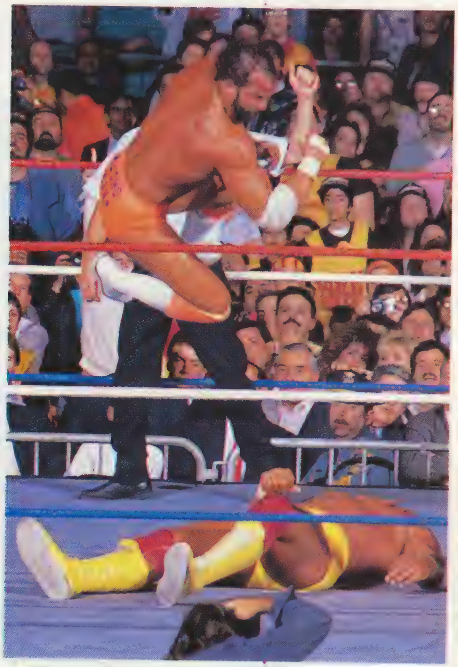


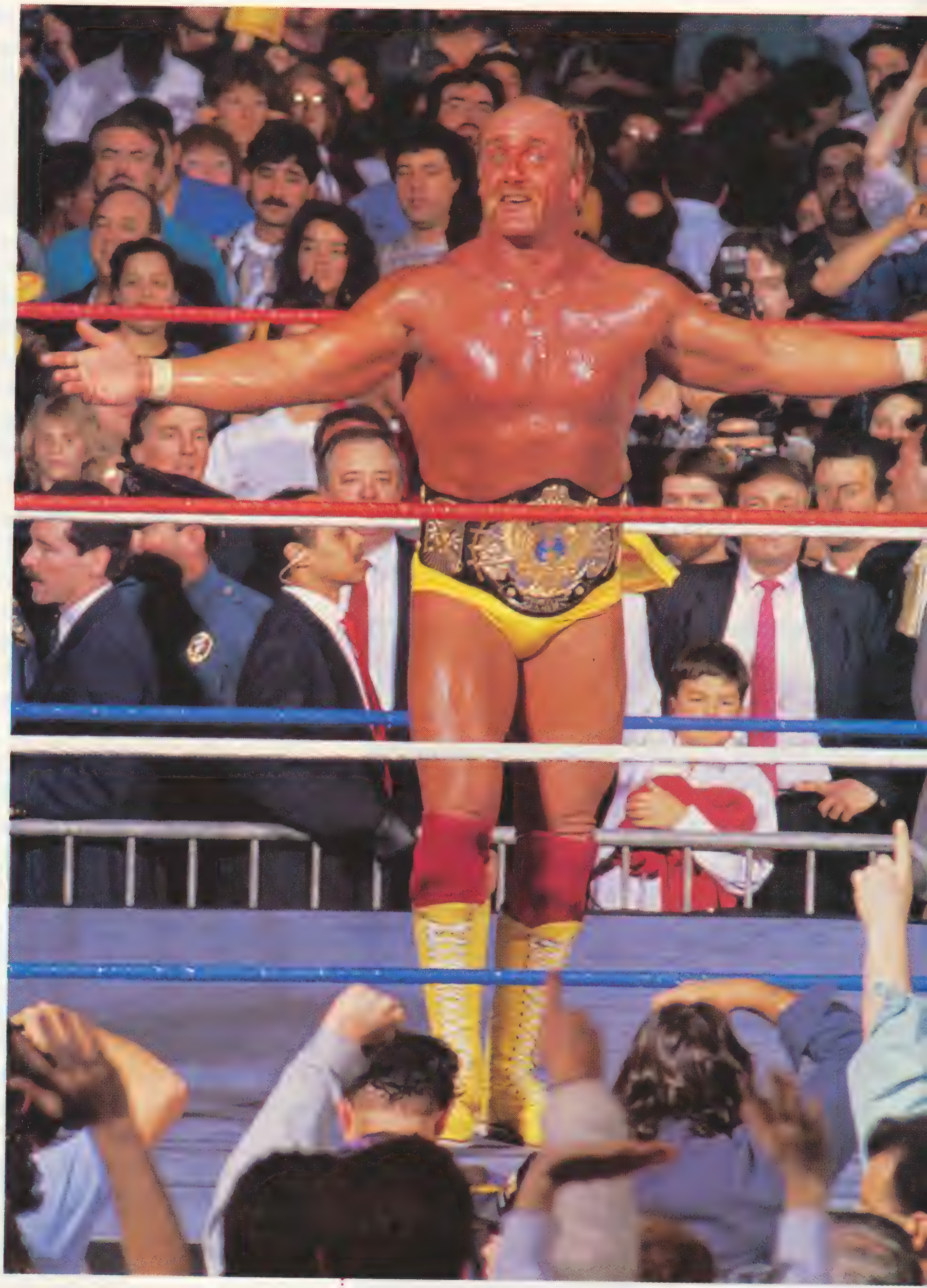
Nobody was home. Hulk struck the mat hard, and Savage, getting a second wind, mounted an alarming offensive. After scoring with an axhandle, the Macho Man hammered away on Hogan's nearly closed eye. Then, as if to add insult to injury, Savage wound up and slapped the Hulkster across the face.

Hulk, white-hot with anger, rose to his feet, seemingly impervious to Savage's previous blows. Running on rage, the title-hungry challenger rammed the Macho Man's head into the buckle, stunned him with a wicked clothesline and, to accent his impressive comeback, threw Savage over the ropes to the concrete floor. Hogan wouldn't let the ropes confine his assault, and he battled with the champion around the ringside area. During this wild brawl, the Macho Man tossed the Hulkster face-first into the ringpost and then crushed him with an axhandle off the top turnbuckle.

Savage went on a tear, trying every dirty trick to defeat his adversary. Then, with Hulk flat out on the mat, the Macho Man ascended the ropes. Perched on the top corner pad, the champion, foreseeing victory, jumped and jolted Hogan's body with a punishing elbow. After striking with this lethal blow, Savage covered his opponent, confident that Hogan was finished.







But he wasn't. The Hulkster escaped and, with his eyes fixed on the champion, rose and planted a boot to the Macho Man's head. The champion wilted to the canvas. Not done with him, Hulk wanted an insurance policy, so he legdropped Savage. Almost out of breath and sweating profusely, Hogan covered the Macho Man. The enormous crowd roared in unison as the referee put the count on Savage. When the official slapped the mat for the third time, the people in attendance thundered their approval of the new WWF Champion—Hulk Hogan!

ULTIMATE WARRIOR

VS

RAVISHING RICK RUDE

FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

The Intercontinental Championship was on the line at *WrestleMania V* when Champion Ultimate Warrior battled Ravishing Rick Rude. For the Warrior, this match would be a chance to gain revenge against Rude, who had jumped the titleholder with a workout bar a few months earlier at the *Royal Rumble's* Super Posedown.

As soon as he burst into the *WrestleMania* ring, the Warrior started his revenge by throwing Rude from pillar to post. Every time the Ravishing One struck the buckles, his head snapped to one side. On the prowl, the Warrior stayed on him, catching the challenger in a powerful bearhug, which squeezed the air from his rib cage.

Screaming out his rage, the Warrior applied the pressure. Rude's strength began to ebb. As a last resort before possible submission, Rude, taking instructions from manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan at ringside, jammed a thumb into the Warrior's eye, blinding him.

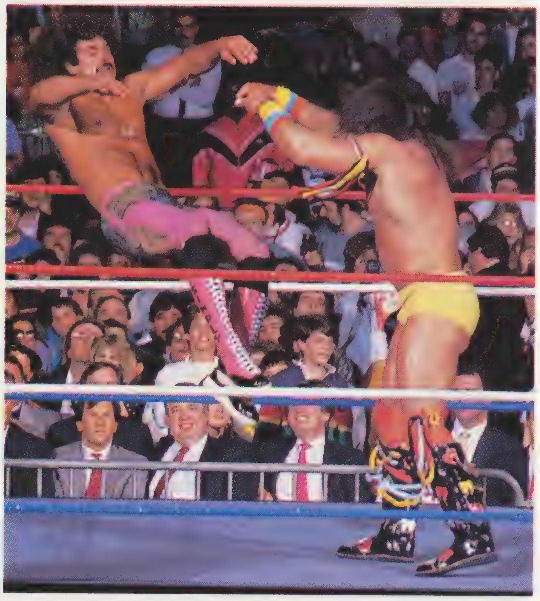
Like a cat, Rude attacked the Warrior, mounting the top ropes and dropping him with a flying axhandle. Rude, believing that the champion was unconscious, attempted a quick pin. At the count of one, the Warrior kicked out with authority.

Snorting fury, the Warrior shifted the tempo of the match by slamming the Ravishing One and bearhugging him. Screaming in agony, Rude once more targeted the Warrior's eye. Unable to see, the Warrior released his challenger. The Warrior, however, boiled over with anger, as if the punishment Rude inflicted on him served to whet his appetite for combat.

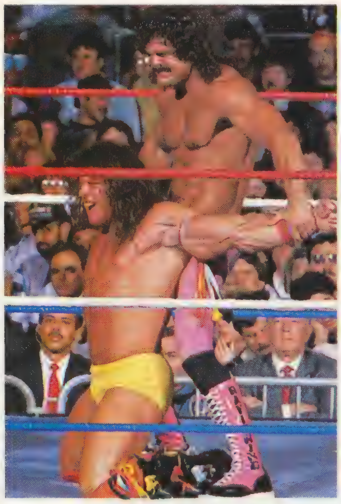
Apparently it did, since the Warrior unleashed a torturous pounding on Rude's body. This was enough to put Rude on the canvas, battered and sore. Then the Warrior went for a pin by leaping up in preparation to big-splash the groggy challenger. As the Warrior descended toward the mat, Rude defensively lifted his knees into the Warrior's rib cage, knocking out his wind.

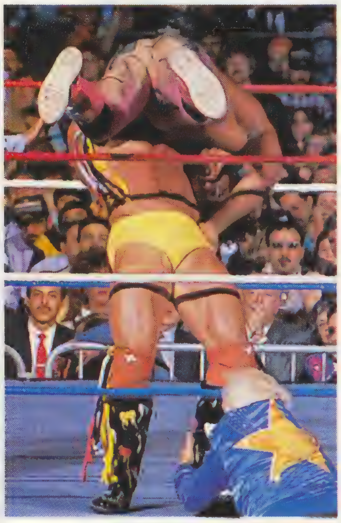
In control, Rude then pulled out all the stops to gain the win, but nothing worked. Even a piledriver couldn't keep the Warrior's shoulders down for a three-count. Moving on to another strategy, Rude made an attempt to drain the Warrior of his incredible strength by surfboarding him. With his arms held apart, the Warrior began shaking as his corded muscles pulsated. As soon as he broke out of the hold, the Warrior was set up for the Rude Awakening.

Astoundingly, as he had done with the surfboard, the Intercontinental Champion powered himself free and went on the attack—clotheslining, punching and kicking his opponent. One clothesline flung Rude up and over the ropes. However, he landed feet-first on the ring apron near his manager. As the Warrior suplexed Rude back into the squared circle, Heenan hooked the Warrior's leg, throwing him off-balance. Rude came down on top of the champion, and the Brain—just to make sure there was no chance he would kick out—held the Warrior's leg down as the referee counted. Unfortunately for the Ultimate Warrior, that was



The tide of this grueling combat ebbed and flowed. First, the Hulkster attempted to debilitate the champion by hurling him over the top ropes to the arena floor. Then Savage went airborne and crashed an axhandle across the challenger's wide back. Once they regained the ring, Savage flattened Hulk with a big elbow. Just when it looked as if Hulk would be beaten, he withstood the blow and mounted a potent offense to reclaim the WWF Championship. The Intercontinental Title was up for grabs when the Warrior encountered Rude. Using his superior might, the Warrior muscled Rude with the force of an exploding powder keg. However, Rude found an advantage by dropkicking the champ from the top rope.





Rude tried to sap the Warrior's strength with a surfboard. After breaking free, the Warrior tried suplexing his challenger into the ring, but Bobby Heenan grabbed the Warrior's boot and held it as Rude crashed down on him for the illegal pin. With Studd as referee, Andre and Jake went at it ferociously. Both men relentlessly choked one another. In a handicap match for the WWF Tag Team Title, Demolition overcame the Powers of Pain and Mr. Fuji.

WWF
WrestleMania V

all she wrote. Not until beating Rude in *SummerSlam* would the Ultimate Warrior again wear the title belt.

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS

VS

ANDRE THE GIANT

Specially appointed referee Big John Studd jawed it out with Andre before the bell. While this was occurring, Jake rushed the ring but was stopped dead in his tracks by Andre, who hammered him into a buckle. Attempting to maintain order, Studd warned the Eighth Wonder of the World about his overly aggressive actions. Ignoring John, the Giant continued to tear into the Snake methodically, pummeling him down.

When Roberts regained his footing, Andre cinched on a standing reverse chinlock and then backed his sly opponent into a corner, where the Giant crushed Jake against the pads. Over and over again, Andre slammed his 520-pound frame into the Snake, who grimaced with pain. To further punish Roberts, Andre, snarling, choked him barbarically.

Quickly, Studd interceded and threatened the Giant with a disqualification. But Andre paid the monstrous arbiter no heed and went on strangling the Snake. Jake, however, dug down deep and gathered reserves to battle back. His onslaught eventually caused Andre to get tangled in the ropes. With the Giant vulnerable, Roberts then gave him a taste of his own medicine by choking him.

Big John ordered Jake to back off, and reluctantly, the Snake listened. This brief break in the action gave the Giant enough time to free himself. When he did, Andre attacked the Snake's throat. The Giant tossed Jake out of the ring, and every time Roberts tried to regain it, Andre kicked him down. Finally, Studd had had enough and bawled the Giant out for his blatant disregard of the rules. However, Andre returned the verbal fire, and before too long, both leviathans were engaged in an all-out argument. Just then, Ted DiBiase, a man who has hated Jake for years, ran to ringside, blindsided the Snake and rushed off with the bag containing Damian. Chaos rained, and amidst it all, the Giant headbutted Studd from behind.

That was that. John called for the bell, disqualifying Andre for striking an official and giving Jake the win.

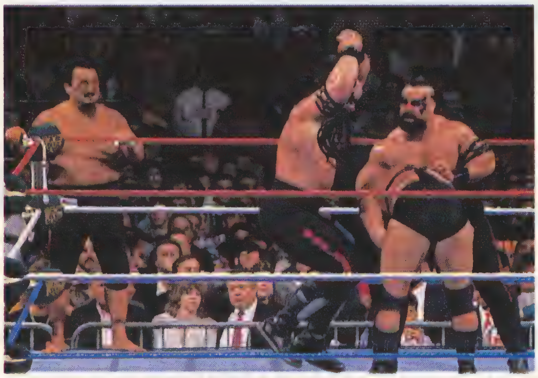
DEMOLITION

VS

THE POWERS OF PAIN & MR. FUJI

At first, it appeared that Mr. Fuji and the Powers of Pain—Warlord and Barbarian—were primed and ready for this handicap match. However, when WWF Tag Team Champions Demolition, Ax and Smash, stormed the ring, the trio's look of readiness quickly evaporated.

Once the bell rang, Demolition hammered their large opponents at will and tagged in and out frequently. Every time Ax



and Smash had one of the Powers close enough, they double-teamed with great effectiveness, toppling their massive foes with axhandles and kicks. However, the Barbarian halted Demolition's attack by booting Ax in the face. He fell near the Powers' corner, and they took advantage of the fact, tagging in Fuji, who dropped headbutts and kicks.

After Ax survived the savage triple-teaming, Fuji—perhaps sensing the moment was right—scaled the turnbuckles and leapt off for a legdrop on Ax. At the last second, however, the tag team co-titlist moved, and Fuji crashed to the mat in a heap. Crawling, Ax lunged forward and tagged a wild Smash, who entered the fray like a whirling tornado, slamming and clotheslining the Powers of Pain and their sneaky manager.

Seeing his partner outnumbered, Ax came in and focused his attention on the Barbarian. During this five-man brawl, the Warlord held Smash's arms back as Fuji dipped into his trunks and produced a packet of salt. Leering, Fuji tossed the salt at Smash. Incredibly, Smash slipped away, and the substance hit the Warlord in the face, temporarily blinding him. Fuji was all alone with Demolition, and the two annihilated their former mentor, polishing him off for good with the Demolition decapitation—and gaining the win.

Other bouts at *WrestleMania V* were some of the most exciting ever. Some of the matches were Bobby Heenan against the Red Rooster, Duggan against Bad News and the Harts against Honky and Valentine—a team that would come to be known as Rhythm & Blues.

RED ROOSTER

VS

BOBBY "THE BRAIN" HEENAN

Bobby Heenan took on former "pupil" the Red Rooster at *WrestleMania V*, marking the second year the Brain had wrestled on a *WrestleMania* card.

With his thug, the Brooklyn Brawler, at ringside, Heenan waited cautiously for the Rooster, who strutted down the aisle. When the Rooster entered the ring, he attacked Heenan like a fighting cock. After thrashing the manager with an assortment of punches and kicks, the Red Rooster started to whip Heenan across the ring. However, the Brain reversed the move, sending the Rooster into the turnbuckles.

Gritting his teeth in anger, Bobby charged the Rooster with a full head of steam, but the Rooster saw him coming a mile away and moved. Shoulder-first, the Brain crashed between the buckles and into the ringpost. With his head spinning, Bobby sagged to the canvas in a daze. There, the Rooster easily covered him for the pinfall—the quickest match since King Kong Bundy beat S.D. Jones in nine seconds at *WrestleMania I.*

HACKSAW JIM DUGGAN

VS

BAD NEWS BROWN

As expected, Brown and Duggan did nothing but brawl during their encounter. At the beginning of this seesaw matchup, Duggan decked Brown with a clothesline. After that, Brown began duking it out with the bigboned upstate New York native. Hacksaw, however, welcomed this type of action and fought back ruthlessly.

From there, the action spilled onto the arena floor, where both bruisers banged away at one another. Brown, using the resources around him, slammed Duggan into the ringpost and then threw him back into the ring. Bad News then tried to put out Hacksaw's lights with the feared ghetto blaster. Duggan avoided the reverse crescent kick and responded with a football shoulderblock, which sent Brown through the ropes.

As Hacksaw paraded in the ring, Brown

grabbed a ringside folding chair and advanced into the squared circle with it. To fight fire with fire, Duggan reached for his two-by-four, and the two wrestlers began dueling with their weapons, earning them both a disqualification.

THE HART FOUNDATION

VS

HONKY TONK MAN & GREG "THE HAMMER" VALENTINE

When Honky and the Hammer Pearl Harbored the Foundation on national television, Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart swore revenge.

Once the contest was underway, Bret got a taste of revenge by dominating both of Jimmy Hart's men with atomic drops and dropkicks. Then Bret and the Anvil took turns working over Valentine, until the Hammer managed to counter with an elbow to the Hit Man's brow. A seasoned tag team competitor, the Hammer tagged in Honky, who kept control of the match before tagging out to Valentine.

When the Hammer came in, he adjusted his controversial leg brace and went for the figure-four leglock. However, Bret utilized his vast technical knowledge and flipped the Hammer over before he was able to fully apply the maneuver.

Not long afterward, Honky and Valentine double-teamed the Hit Man. This brought the Anvil into battle, causing a four-man donnybrook. During the commotion, Neidhart began chasing Valentine and Honky's manager, the Colonel, around the outside of the ring. In the end, the Anvil grabbed the manager's megaphone and tossed it into the ring. The Hit Man caught the weapon and brained Honky with it to secure the Hart Foundation victory.

RUGGED RONNIE GARVIN

VS

DINO BRAVO

A callous Dino Bravo besieged Ronnie Garvin with rib-rocking elbows and slams before the opening bell. Tough as leather, Garvin absorbed these tactics and returned some of his own.

As Bravo reeled, Ronnie clamped on a sleeperhold. It looked grim for Dino, as his

The action continued at a feverish pace. In one of the shortest matches of all time, the Rooster bested Heenan. Then Duggan and Brown battled by the book—and, when that failed, they used foreign objects, earning them both a disqualification. After absorbing a double-teaming at the hands of Honky and Valentine, the Foundation went on to victory. Bravo outwrestled Rugged Ronnie Garvin to win his *WrestleMania* bout.

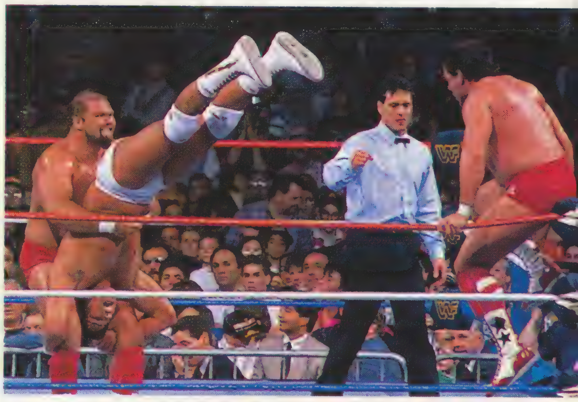
arms flailed and his legs grew rubbery. But lady luck was on his side. Bravo saved himself by inching close to the ropes, where the referee ordered Garvin to release the maneuver. Ronnie, however, kept on Bravo and prepared to piledrive him. It didn't come to pass. Using his thick neck muscles, Dino broke out of the move and backdropped Rugged Ronnie.

But hold the phone! Garvin held onto Bravo and brought his shoulders to the mat with a powerful sunset flip. After a two-count, Rugged Ronnie got up and began pounding Dino in a corner.

Dino, however, hung in there. After taking these jaw-jarring blows, Bravo grabbed Garvin by the waist and reverse atomic-dropped him. A side suplex later, Ronnie Garvin was a beaten man.

STRIKE FORCE VS THE BRAIN BUSTERS

Mere seconds into the bout, the Brain Busters—Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson—found themselves outside the ring, courtesy of a Strike Force double dropkick. Clearing the cobwebs, Anderson stepped into the ring and wrestled Rick Martel on the mat. Martel, who had recently returned to action after a severe neck injury, wrestled excellently until Blanchard came in illegally and kicked Martel. Seeing his partner in dire straits, Santana rushed to the trouble spot. There, Strike Force applied figure-four leglocks to the Busters.



Staying in the ring, Tito battled the Busters with a bevy of moves. Then the turning point occurred. When Tully went to atomic-drop Santana near his corner, the Latin star tagged Martel. As Martel stepped through the ropes, Tito bounced off the opposite strands and went airborne, aiming his forearm at the Brain Buster. Blanchard, seeing it coming, ducked, and the blow accidentally connected with Martel's neck.

Believing that Tito's move was intentional, Martel—who is now known as the Model—walked off, leaving his partner to fend for himself against the Brain Busters. Needless to say, Santana was easy pickings for Heenan's team. After dishing out a good measure of punishment, the Brain Busters finally finished off Tito Santana with the spiked piledriver to secure the win.

From then on, Rick Martel's attitude took a turn for the worse, and as you all undoubtedly know, he took on Slick as his manager shortly after *WrestleMania V.*

BRUTUS "THE BARBER" BEEFCAKE

VS

MILLION DOLLAR MAN TED DiBIASE

Before his match with Beefcake, The Million Dollar Man shook hands with Donald Trump at ringside—showing the world that he indeed rubs shoulders with the wealthiest people on earth. However, money couldn't stop the Barber from stinging the Million Dollar Champion with backdrops and atomic drops once the bell sounded.

On the offensive, Brutus nailed DiBiase with slams and clotheslines, which sent him scurrying through the ropes for protection. The match progressed into a slugfest, and in the middle of it, the Million Dollar Man seized control.

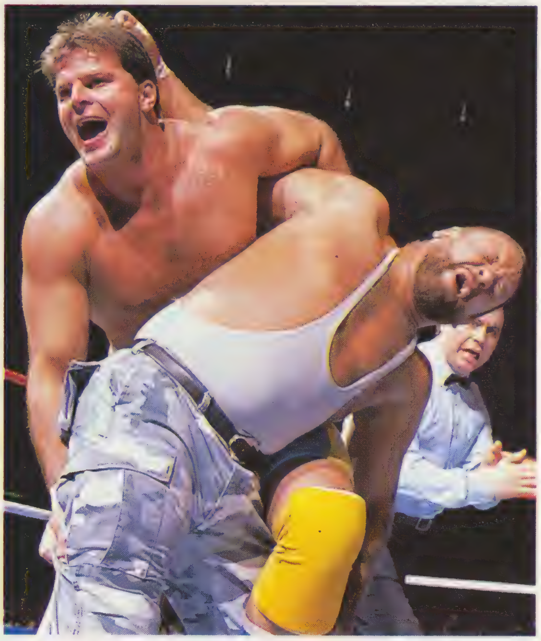
Kicks and skin-welting punches rained down on the Barber's bronzed torso. Stunned, Brutus was then bounced off the ropes and clotheslined. However, when connecting with this tactic, DiBiase's head struck Beefcake's, so both combatants hit the canvas. Shaking off the grogginess, DiBiase was the first man to get up. He zeroed in for the kill with the Million Dollar Dream.

Just when DiBiase thought Beefcake was history, the Barber carried the Million Dollar Man piggyback and slammed his head into the turnbuckle, breaking the sleeperhold. To retaliate, the Barber then applied his version of the sleeper. The Million Dollar Man looked helpless until—as a last-ditch effort—his bodyguard, Virgil, interfered, making Brutus relinquish the hold. At that point, DiBiase launched the Barber through the ropes to the concrete floor. There, Brutus brawled with the Million Dollar Man and Virgil, until both wrestlers were eventually counted out by the referee.

THE BUSHWHACKERS

VS

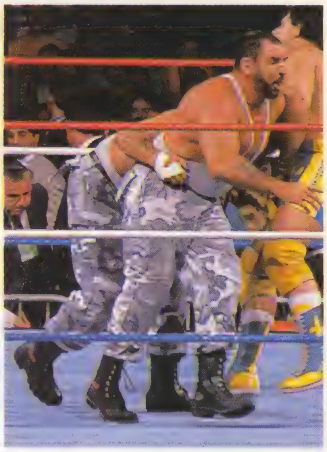
THE FABULOUS ROUGEAUS



In another tag team confrontation, the Bushwhackers, Luke and Butch, battled the Fabulous Rougeaus, Jacques and Raymond, who were under the management of Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart.

The Rougeaus started things off by jump-

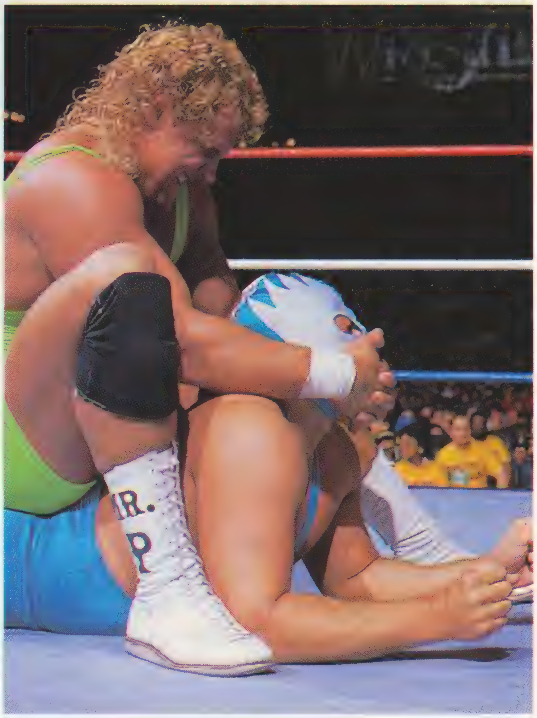
Strike Force saw its last match together against the Brain Busters. At first, it seemed like a normal Strike Force contest, with Martel wrestling Arn Anderson brilliantly. However, when Santana mistakenly hit Martel with a flying forearm, Martel deserted Tito, who was then outmatched by the Busters. Another contest pitted the Bushwhackers against the Rougeaus. After surviving a Jacques abdominal stretch, Luke and Butch defeated their foes. Beefcake and DiBiase also saw action against one another.



ing the Bushwhackers. But when the Rougeau brothers began fighting Luke and Butch, it was too much for Jacques and Raymond to handle, as the Bushwhackers brawled back gallantly with hard rights and double clotheslines. Just like that, however, the tide shifted, and the Rougeaus took command of the bout.

It appeared almost hopeless for the Bushwhackers as Jacques had Luke snared in an abdominal stretch. Then Raymond tagged in, and he side-kicked a wide-open Luke in the ribs. Delighted over their double-team ploy, the brothers embraced one another. While Jacques and Raymond celebrated with their backs turned to Luke, Butch ran in and side-headlocked his partner. The two rambunctious wrestlers then delivered the Bushwhacker battering ram to Raymond, knocking the wind out of him. A reverse stomach slam of Raymond was the icing on the cake. Raymond could do nothing but lie there in agony as Luke covered him for the pinfall.

BLUE BLAZER VS MR. PERFECT



The mysterious Blue Blazer and Mr. Perfect collided in perhaps the best scientific match of *WrestleMania V*. From the start, the Blazer took Perfect by surprise, reversing a hiptoss and bodyslamming him. A dropkick hurled Mr. Perfect over the ropes. Once he came back into the ring, the Blazer was again on Mr. Perfect—this time with an armbar.

Having his way with Mr. Perfect, the Blazer—after slamming him—ascended the top ropes and leapt off. As the Blazer dropped like a bomb, Perfect raised his knees, catching him in the midsection. Although the Blazer came back with a beautifully executed crucifix, Mr. Perfect's perfect-plex was too much for him, and like all of Perfect's previous opponents, the Blue Blazer was beaten.

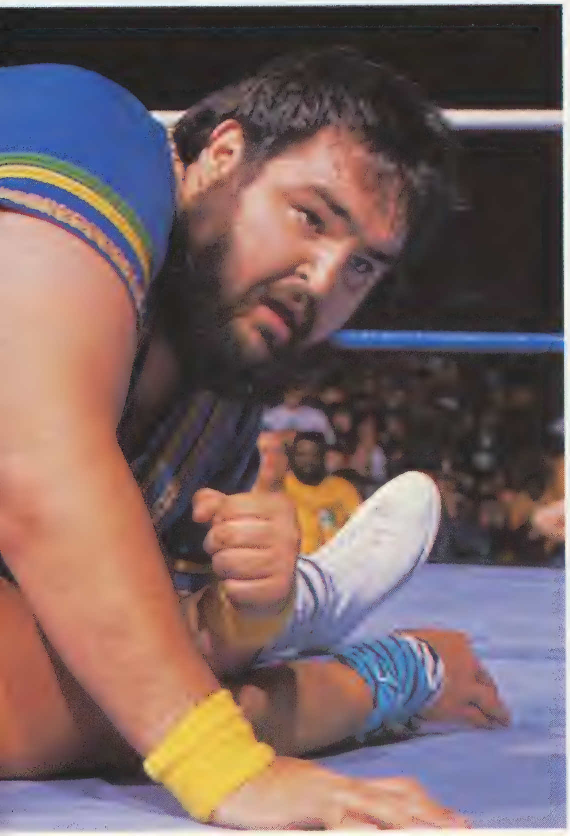
THE ROCKERS VS THE TWIN TOWERS

Speed and wrestling finesse against titanic strength and gargantuan size—that's the

The Blue Blazer, a fine master of the air, was no match for Mr. Perfect, who perfect-plexed his way into the *WrestleMania* history books. Although the Rockers dazzled the Twin Towers with a host of aerial maneuvers and astounding agility, the incredible mass of the Boss Man and Akeem was just too much for Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty to handle. In the opening match, the mighty Hercules and King Haku collided, with Hercules besting the King.

only way to describe the match between Rockers Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels and Twin Towers Akeem and Boss Man. In the end, the more powerful team walked away victorious.

But the price of triumph was costly. The Rockers dazzled their huge foes with such hair-raising moves as double dropkicks and double fists from the top ropes. Marty and Shawn threw the Towers off-balance by ducking under clotheslines and sliding through their redwood-like legs.



Just when it seemed that the Rockers would prevail, the Boss Man cut down Michaels with a spike slam. Groggy, Shawn lay on the canvas. The Towers were not done with him. To make certain that the Rocker was totally beaten, Akeem tagged in and big-splashed Shawn to ensure the win.

HERCULES

VS

KING HAKU

Then-World Wrestling Federation King Haku wrestled a bruising match against the mighty Hercules. It turned out to be one of the most physically demanding contests of

WrestleMania V. First, Haku buried Hercules with chops and punches. Hercules responded by clotheslining and suplexing Haku.

However, Hercules made a mistake pursuing Haku's manager, Bobby Heenan, onto the arena floor. As Hercules chased the Brain, Haku crept up and stung his foe with a series of punches. Throwing him into the ring, Haku dished out some real punishment to the man who believes that he's an ancient Greek legend. But Hercules endured this and eventually came back to beat his kingly foe with a back suplex.

WrestleMania IV What The World Is Watching

BY ED RICCIUTI

Highlighted by a unique tournament to decide the WWF Championship, *WrestleMania IV* continued the tradition on March 27, 1988, from the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The event took place before a sellout crowd of 19,000 fans, while some 50 million people viewed it over pay-per-view cable television and at closed-circuit venues.

WrestleMania IV excitement was not confined to the ring. WWF superstars, special guests and celebrities mixed with fans at galas such as a VIP dinner and posh brunch during a *WrestleMania* Festival sponsored by the Trump Plaza.

The glitter of the weekend was enhanced by *WrestleMania IV* guest celebrities. Robin Leach, host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, was official presenter of the WWF Championship Belt. Gladys Knight was guest vocalist. Vanna White of *Wheel of Fortune* was guest timekeeper, and Mr. Baseball Bob Uecker was guest announcer.

The greatest thrills of the weekend emanated from the squared circle, where the furious action began at 4:00 p.m.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

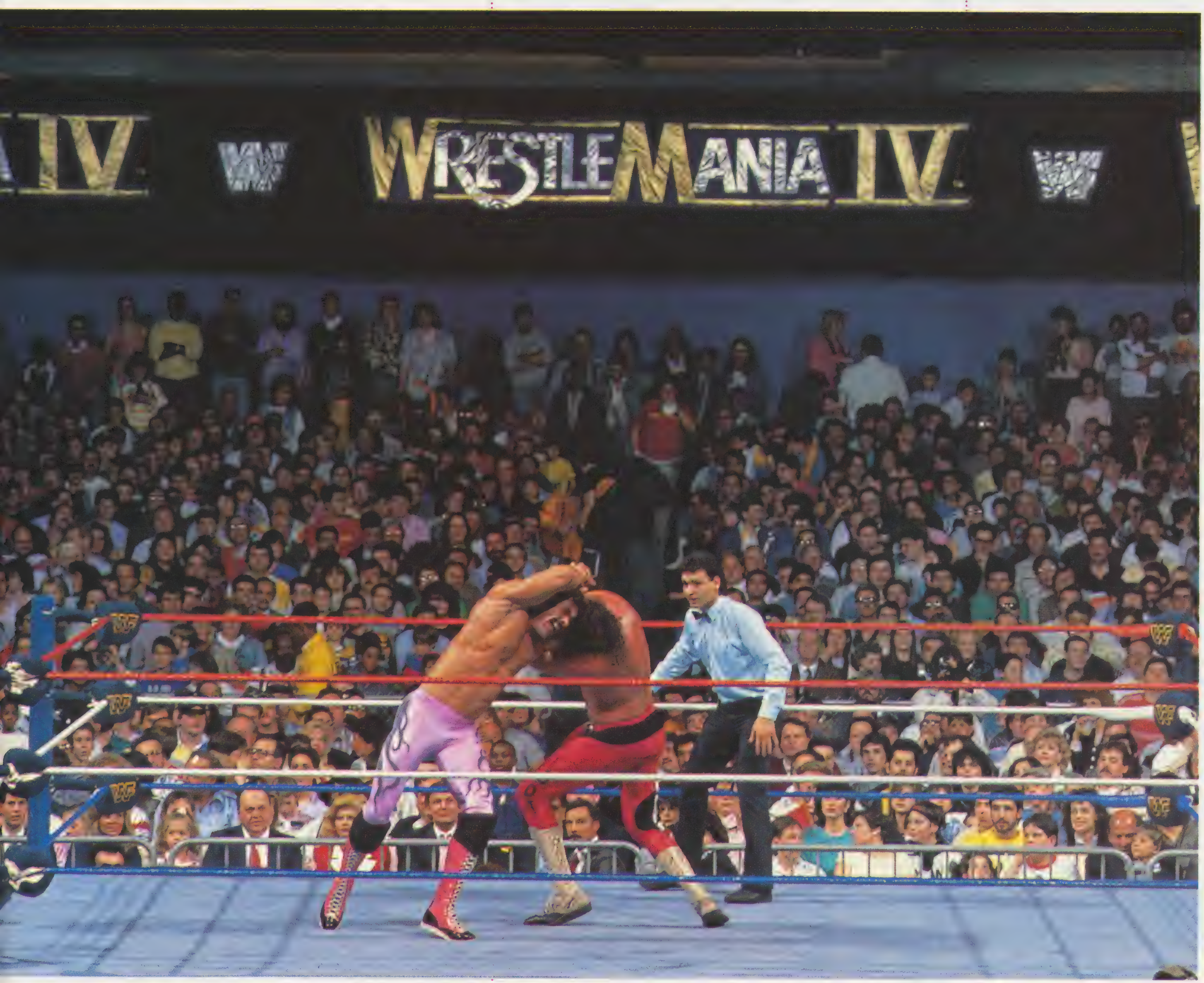
The World Wrestling Federation crown was vacant for the first time in history. Andre the Giant, after taking the title under controversial circumstances from Hulk Hogan, had surrendered it in order to bestow it upon the Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase. That was a titanic mistake because, as Andre and DiBiase found out, the rules state that when a champion surrenders the title, it cannot be given to someone else—and the champion cannot have it back.

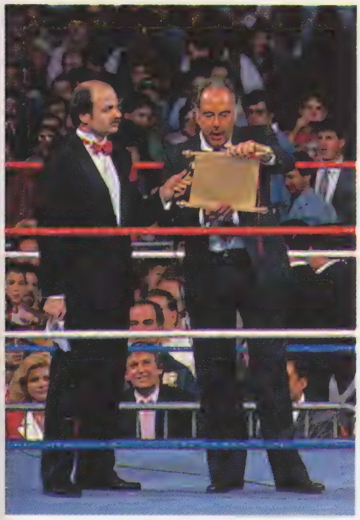
Top contenders for the belt were invited to a *WrestleMania IV* elimination tournament to determine the champion. Among the contestants were Hogan, Andre and DiBiase—and Macho Man Randy Savage.

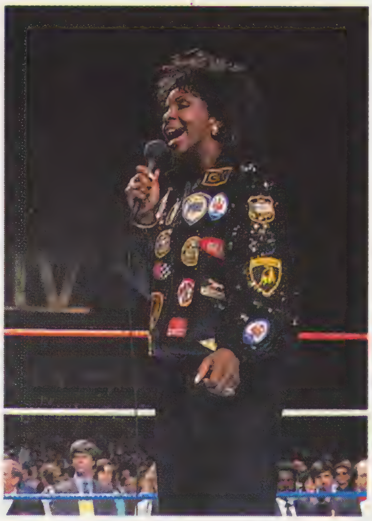
There was great irony surrounding the tournament. Depending on how things went, allies Hogan and Savage could have ended up pitted against one another. So could co-conspirators DiBiase and Andre.

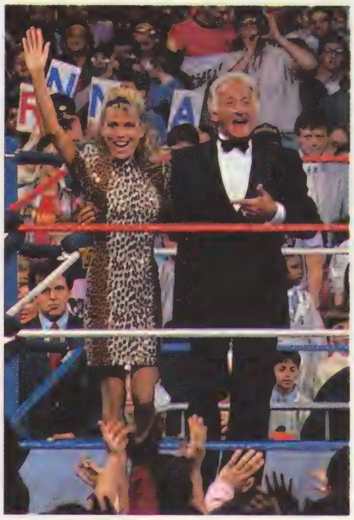
As it turned out, however, these matchups did not occur. But what did happen was even much more incredible.

Six matches were slated for the first round of the tournament, with Hulk and Andre receiving byes because they were the former titleholders. Dino Bravo, who seemingly had outmuscled the Rock Don Muraco, was disqualified. Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, matching Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat in technical expertise, eluded a flying bodypress and turned Steamboat over into a pinfall. One Man Gang—who since has been made Akeem, the honorary African, by his manager Slick— triumphed over Bam Bam Bigelow via a count-out. Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Ravishing Rick Rude—filled with hatred toward one another—battled so viciously that both were disqualified, giving One Man



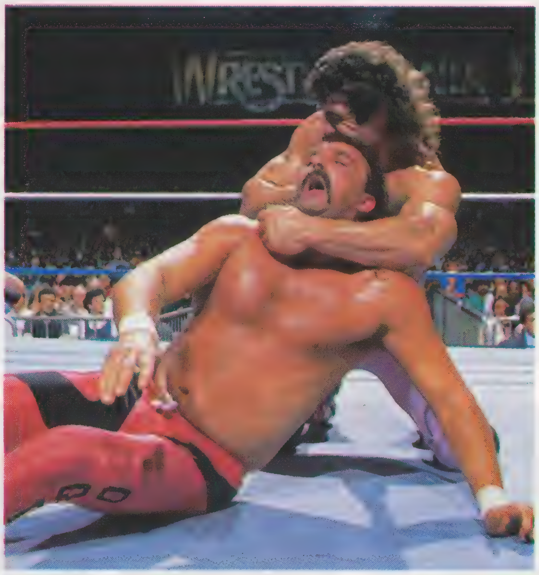






Numerous celebrities turned out for the WWF's *WrestleMania IV. Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous'* Robin Leach was the official presenter of the WWF belt, while Gladys Knight of Gladys Knight and the Pips sang *America the Beautiful* to kick off the extravaganza. Also on hand were Mr. Baseball Bob Uecker and *Wheel of Fortune's* Vanna White.

In round one of the WWF's Championship Tournament, the Rock Don Muraco battled Canadian strongman Dino Bravo. As a result of this contest, Muraco—whose mentor, Superstar Billy Graham, looked on—emerged victorious via a disqualification. The last match of the first round saw Jake "The Snake" Roberts tangle with Ravishing Rick Rude. These two superbly conditioned athletes wrestled to a time-limit draw, which eliminated them both. Ted DiBiase finished off Hacksaw Jim Duggan with a knee after he was distracted by Andre. The Giant got all he could handle when he entered the ring with Hulk Hogan.



Gang a bye in the second round.

DiBiase's first-round opponent was the rugged Hacksaw Jim Duggan, an awesome obstacle to the Million Dollar Man's quest for the title. Indeed, at first it appeared that Duggan's roughhouse style of wrestling would be too much for DiBiase. Even after Duggan ran into a boot and was ruthlessly stomped, he regained the upper hand and battered the Million Dollar Man.

Seeing DiBiase groggy, Hacksaw went into his three-point stance and readied to launch his flying tackle. Suddenly, a huge arm reached under the ropes and a massive hand grabbed Hacksaw Jim Duggan, yanking him to the mat by the leg.

Infuriated, Duggan turned toward ringside and a glowering Andre. As Duggan went for the Giant, Andre threw a thunderous right that connected with Hacksaw's jaw. From behind, DiBiase landed a kick to Hacksaw's kidneys—and scored a pinfall.

Savage had an equally tough time against the Natural Butch Reed. The Natural believed he had Savage beat and mounted the top rope for an aerial attack. It was a foolish move because Savage grabbed Reed and slammed him to the mat. Now it was Savage's turn to launch himself from the ropes. He did, and he pulverized Reed to notch a pin.

And then, as the second match began, came the confrontation people worldwide were awaiting. However, it was not, as expected, for the final laurels. Towering over the ring, his face a mask of ruthless determination, was Andre the Giant. At ringside, below his corner, were the Million Dollar Man and his burly bodyguard, Virgil.

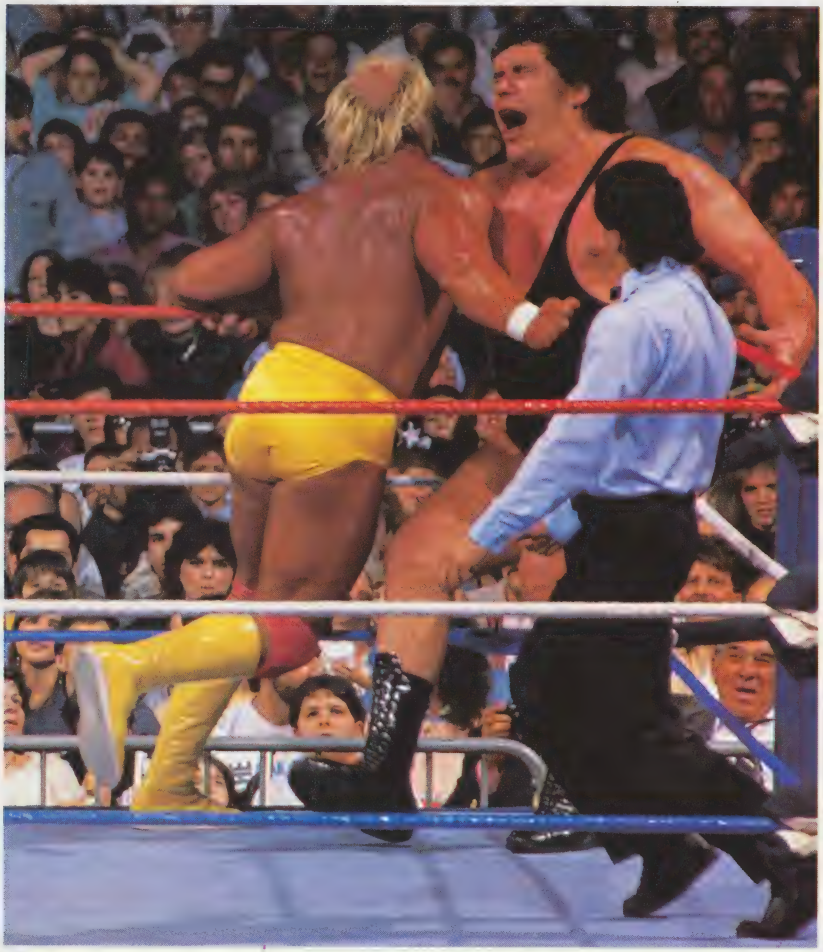
The Giant did not utter a single word. His face remained totally impassive as Hulk Hogan stormed toward the squared circle and dived under the ropes.

Hogan's impatience to get on with it, however, cost him dearly because when he rocketed under the ropes, he ended up at Andre's feet. As Hulk stood up, the Giant began to punish him, headbutting him repeatedly, rocking him with chops and smashes before the bell rang.

Despite the fury of the assault, Hogan did not break. Indeed, when DiBiase jumped on the ring apron, Hogan grabbed the Million Dollar Man and shook him fiercely. Then when Andre came into the picture, Hulk banged their skulls together.

From there it was all Hogan, who took the battle to Andre. Astoundingly, Andre fell back before the Hulkster's swarming assault. Hogan's fists thudded into the Giant's body. Andre wobbled, then—like a felled redwood—toppled to the mat.

Hoping for a pin, the Hulkster dropped three thunderous elbows on the fallen Andre. But the Giant still retained some of his senses and resorted to his favorite tactic—



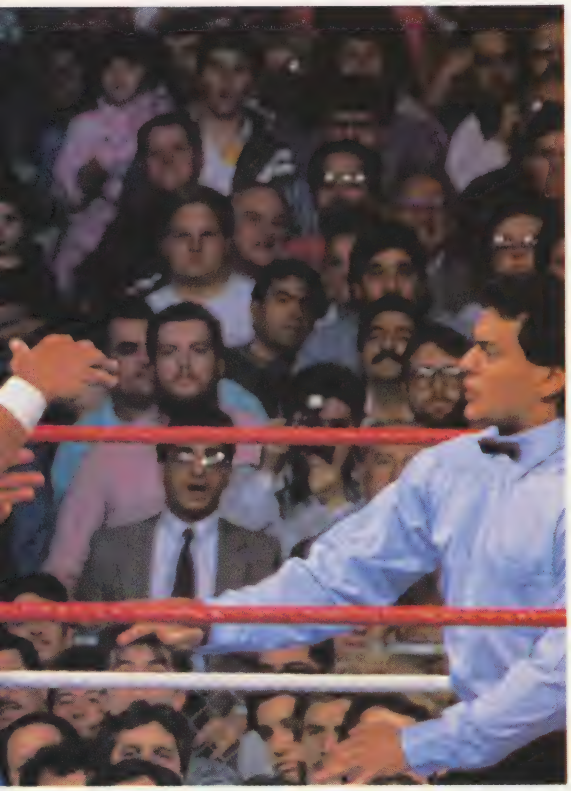
The battle between Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant raged back and forth. First, Hogan had Andre reeling with a charging clothesline in the corner. The Eighth Wonder of the World soon came back and snared the Hulkster in a vicious chokehold that nearly put his lights out. As the matchup progressed, a steel folding chair came into play, and the Million Dollar Man used it on Hogan's back after Hulk and Andre struggled for its possession.

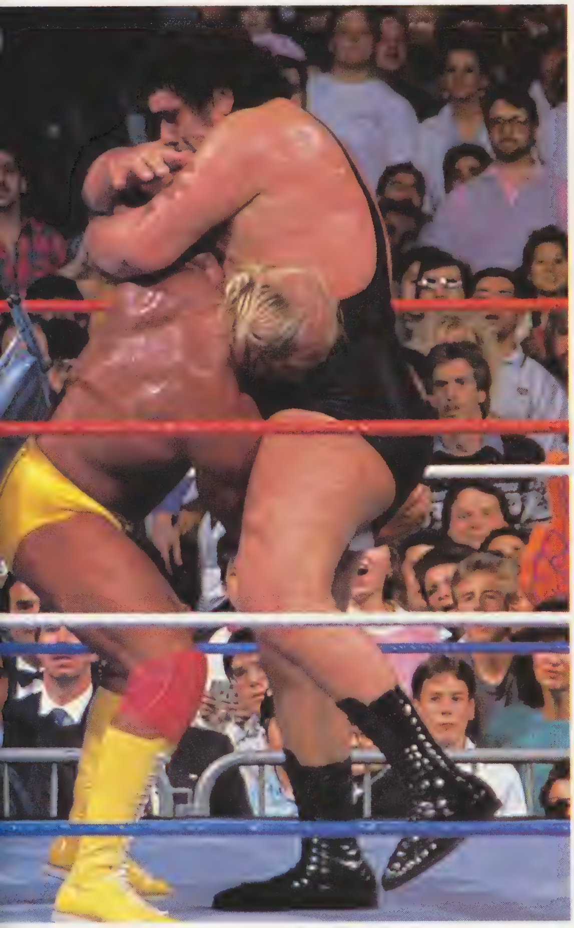
choking and then breaking off before the referee's five-count.

As the roar of the crowd encouraged him, the Hulkster seized the Giant's arms and, with herculean effort, powered out of the choke. Driving Andre toward the ropes, the Hulkster took a big chance. He went for a bodyslam of the 500-pound-plus Andre. In a flash, DiBiase was there to slam a ringside chair across Hogan's back. As DiBiase scuttled from the ring, Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan fought for the chair. Hogan won and used it to floor Andre.

As DiBiase and Virgil tried to pull Andre from the ring, Hogan suplexed the bodyguard. Finally, as fans gasped in amazement, the Hulkster did it. He slammed the Giant. The feat earned the Hulkster no victory. He and Andre were disqualified—a shock that fans still talk about.

The winner of the Hulk-Andre match would have met the winner of the DiBiase-Muraco contest, the next match in the second round. Due to the disqualification, the



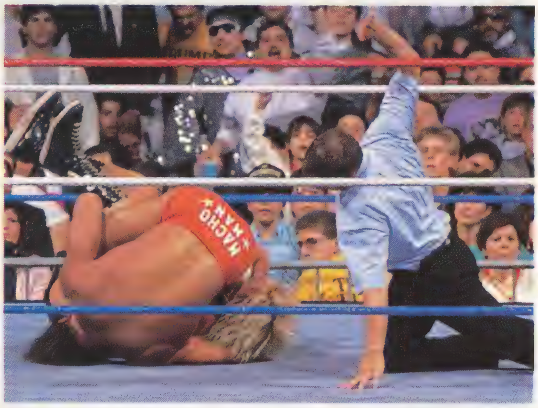


DiBiase-Muraco winner would receive a bye all the way to the finals. The bye went to DiBiase, who swiftly took care of the Rock.

Next, it was Savage against Valentine. The Hammer's strategy was vicious and well-planned. He evaded a Savage pin attempt, then methodically battered Savage with fists and elbows, trying to soften him for the figure-four leglock. With Savage down, the hold went on, and the Macho Man seemed about to be eliminated. Savage, however, managed to gain the ropes, and the referee ordered Valentine to break.

Inspired, the Macho Man came back, kicked Valentine and cradled him for a pin, which was averted when the Hammer's manager, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, interfered. Even so, Savage was not discouraged. He tore into the Hammer, dropped him and rolled him up in a small package for the pin. Savage was on his way.

But a rough way it was. In round three, while DiBiase rested, Savage tackled the Gang, who was fresh because of his round



two bye. Towering over Savage, the Gang manhandled him, while outside the ring Slick menaced Savage's lovely manager, Elizabeth. The referee ordered her away, and as he did so, the Gang unleashed a torrent of illegal blows on the Macho Man.

With the referee distracted by Elizabeth, Slick took his cane and beat Savage with it. Finally, the referee saw what was happening and ruled the exhausted Savage a winner by virtue of disqualification.

Desperately, Savage tried to rest in the locker room. But minutes passed quickly, and he was soon in the ring against a smirking and refreshed DiBiase—with Andre at ringside. Knowing this match was for "all the marbles," Savage looked deep within himself.

Hoping for a quick victory before tiring, Savage charged DiBiase at the bell and was tripped up by an Andre reach-in under the ropes. As Savage and DiBiase matched one another's technical masterpieces, Andre tripped the Macho Man again. Still Savage was undaunted. He clotheslined DiBiase to the ropes and high-kneed him to the floor.

As Savage prepared to launch his patented axhandle from the top rope at DiBiase—who was still on the concrete—Andre acted. He stood over DiBiase and, face ominous, incited Savage to jump to his doom.

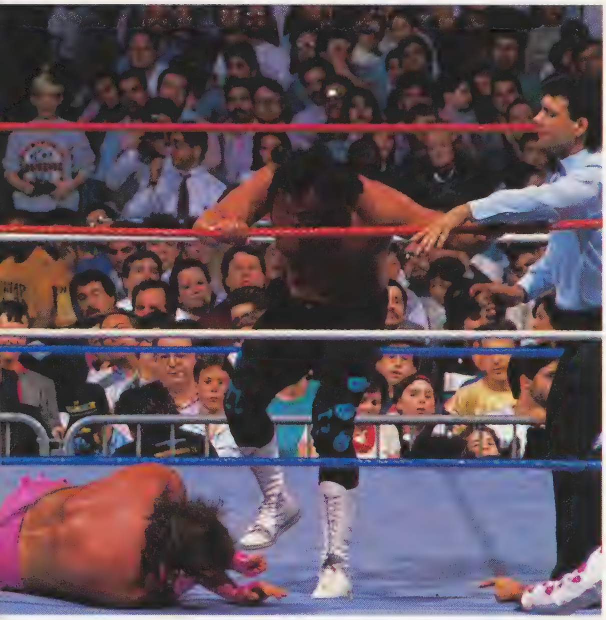
Savage was smarter than that. He declined, then sent Elizabeth to the dressing room for help in the form of Hulk Hogan. The Hulkster arrived and pulled up a chair at ringside. As DiBiase banged Savage pitilessly, Hogan urged his friend to hang tough but made no move—until Andre tried to drag a half-conscious Savage from the ring. Then Hogan moved like a cat, slugged Andre and resumed his watch from the chair.

As the match continued, Savage fought valiantly, but his endurance was ebbing, and DiBiase was in charge. DiBiase went to the top rope to finish Savage. However, Savage, on instinct, grabbed him and put him on the mat. Groggy, Savage nevertheless went to the top himself and launched an elbow— that missed. Suddenly, Savage was in DiBiase's sleeper. As his consciousness faded, Savage reached for the ropes. Nothing there. Andre had pulled them away.

Hogan saw—and acted. Into the ring he went, chair in hand. He cracked DiBiase with it. Savage escaped, went up top and came down with a flying elbow. Three counts lat-

After getting by Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, Greg Valentine squared off against the Macho Man in the quarterfinals. The Hammer tried every trick possible to incapacitate Savage, ranging from eye rakes to well-executed suplexes. However, it was the Macho Man who prevailed over Valentine. After beating the One Man Gang in the semifinals, Savage took on the Million Dollar Man. With armwringers and the like, Savage went to work on DiBiase and even came close to trading blows with DiBiase's business associate, Andre the Giant, who attempted to stick his nose into the Macho Man's business in the Million Dollar Man's behalf.

When DiBiase trapped the Macho Man in the Million Dollar Dream, Savage slumped to the canvas. Just when things looked grim for Randy, the Hulkster evened things up—including the score—by bashing a chair across the Million Dollar Man's back. Moments later, Savage sealed DiBiase's fate with a big elbow off the top ropes. Savage had won the WWF Championship Belt. *WrestleMania IV* was the setting for the formation of the Mega-Powers.



er— amidst uproarious exultation by the wrestling fans—the Macho Man was pronounced the new champion.

We have said that there was irony in the tournament. And there was. The greatest irony of all, however, was that a year later at *WrestleMania V*, Hulk Hogan—betrayed by the Macho Man—would wrest the same title away from Savage.

HONKY TONK MAN

VS

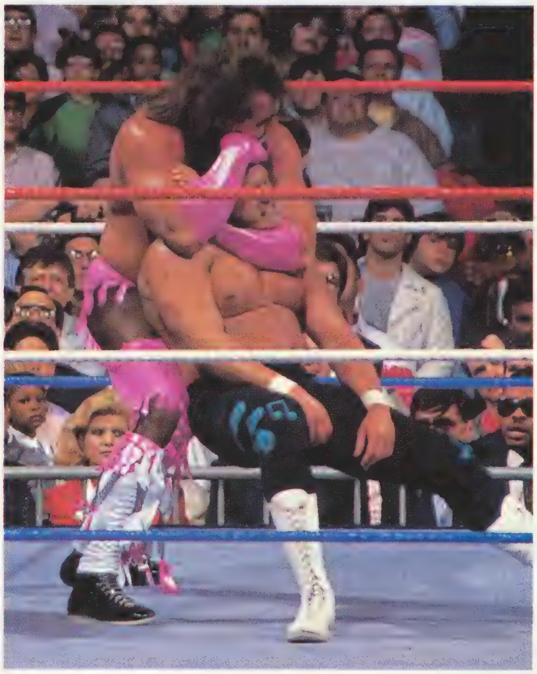
BRUTUS "THE BARBER" BEEFCAKE

FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

Two other titles were on the line at *WrestleMania IV*. One was the Intercontinental, held by Jimmy Hart's Honky Tonk Man, the sneaky songster from Memphis.

Previously clonked by Honky's infamous guitar, the Barber was intent on trimming the greasy black hair of his opponent. But that was easier said than done. Honky put Brutus' head to the buckles, snapmared him down and dropped a fist, then set him up for the dreaded shake, rattle 'n' roll neckbreaker. It never happened, as Beefcake used the ropes in order to escape.

Brutus then came back strong, landing punches, backflipping and then whipping Honky into the sleeper. Moments later, Honky was in dreamland, and the belt seemed to belong to Brutus. That didn't happen, either. Desperate, Hart used his megaphone to knock the referee unconscious,



In a match for the Intercontinental Title, Brutus Beefcake took on Champion the Honky Tonk Man. Hoping to obliterate Beefcake, Honky unloaded heavy boots to Brutus' head and neck, but Honky could not maintain the upper hand. After firing back with assorted tactics, Brutus cinched the sleeperhold on Honky, but Hart's interference cost Brutus the Intercontinental Title.

then, fearful, grabbed Brutus' barber kit from ringside and tried to hide under the ring. The Barber, furious, lifted the ring tarp, dragged out the skinny manager and gave the Mouth a haircut he'll never forget. It was small revenge for being cheated out of the title.

STRIKE FORCE

VS

DEMOLITION

FOR THE WWF TAG TEAM TITLE

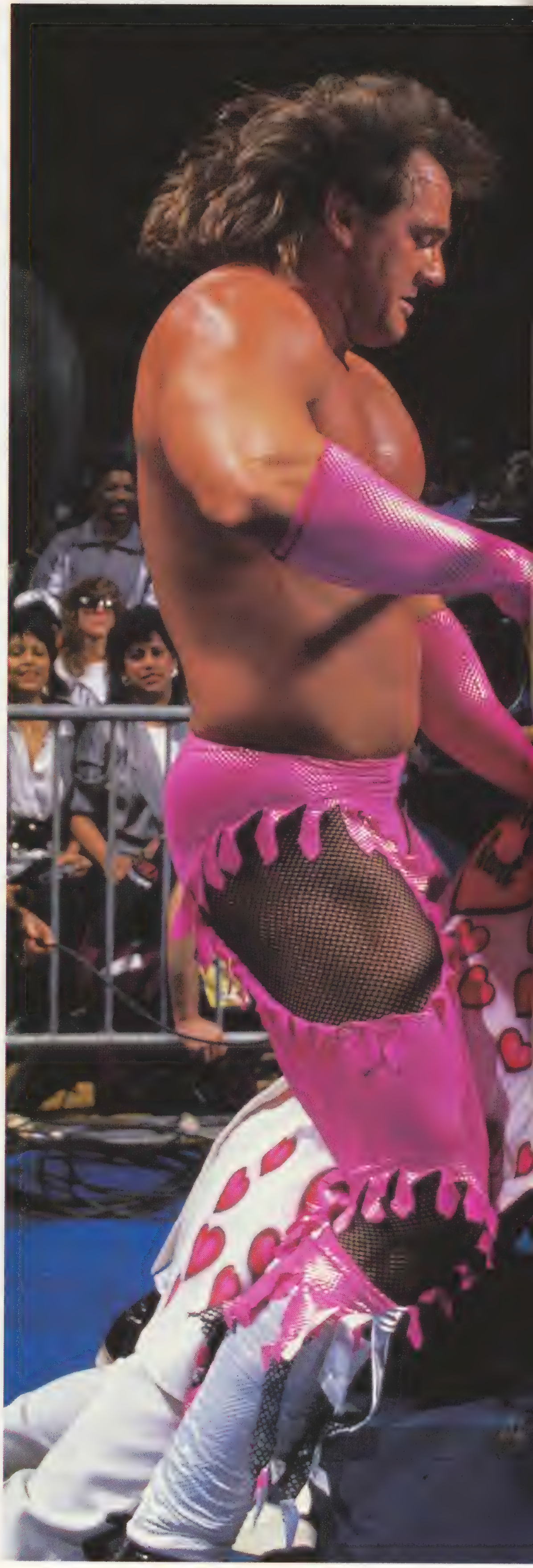
WrestleMania IV marked the first time Ax and Smash of Demolition gained the WWF Tag Team Title. It was the brawn of Ax and Smash against the speed and science of Strike Force's Tito Santana and Rick Martel, the WWF Tag Team Champions.

The power of Demolition was evident at once, as Smash started off by pounding Martel to the mat with a series of double axhandles. After a four-man brawl and some neat double-teaming by Strike Force, Tito and Ax joined battle, with Santana getting the upper hand by working on Ax's arm.

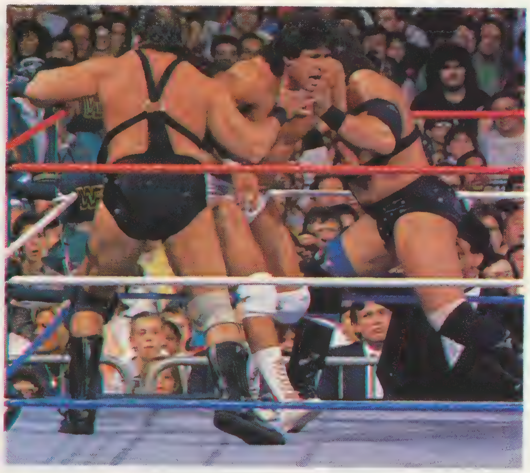
As the match progressed, Demolition did its double-teaming on Tito Santana, who was kept from tagging out as Ax and Smash alternately tagged in.

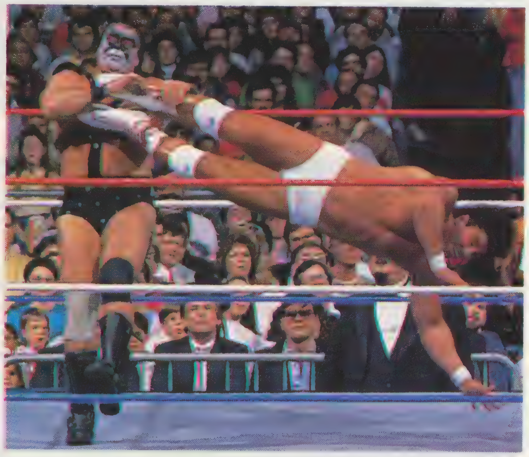
Finally, after delivering a flying forearm on Ax, Tito crawled to his corner and tagged Martel, while Ax tagged Smash. Martel came in like a house afire, Irish whipping, backdropping and dropkicking his adversary.

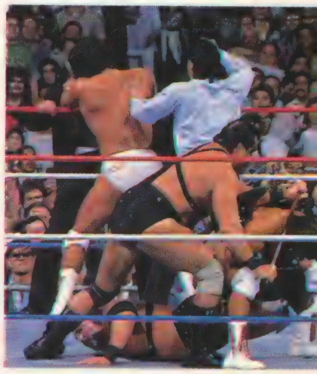
Smash was down and in trouble. Martel went for the Boston crab and a win by submission. It was not to be. Ax and Demolition's sinister manager, Mr. Fuji, caused a ruckus, suckering Tito into the ring. As Martel held Smash in the crab, the referee was involved with Tito and failed to see the hold. Furious, Tito went at Fuji, who dropped his cane into the ring—looking back, it was by design—where Ax grabbed it. As the referee tried to pull off Santana, Ax banged Martel with the cane. The referee finally turned and saw Smash pinning an unconscious Martel. The tag team title belonged to Demolition,

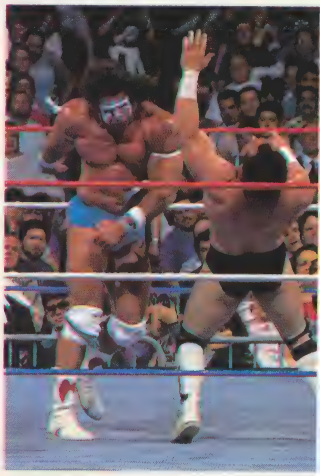


Although Brutus defeated Honky because of a disqualification, Beefcake wasn't yet finished with the Colonel. After the contest, Beefcake grabbed Hart and sheared off quite a bit of his hair. Then Demolition collided with tag team titlists Rick Martel and Tito Santana—Strike Force. At first, Ax and Smash double-teamed Strike Force, battering Santana in a corner. However, this was disrupted by a Martel dropkick. In the end, Martel himself was a victim of double-teaming, which cost Strike Force the belts. The Ultimate Warrior and Hercules also squared off in *WrestleMania IV*.









and—in retrospect—the seeds of Strike Force's breakup may have been sown at that moment in time.

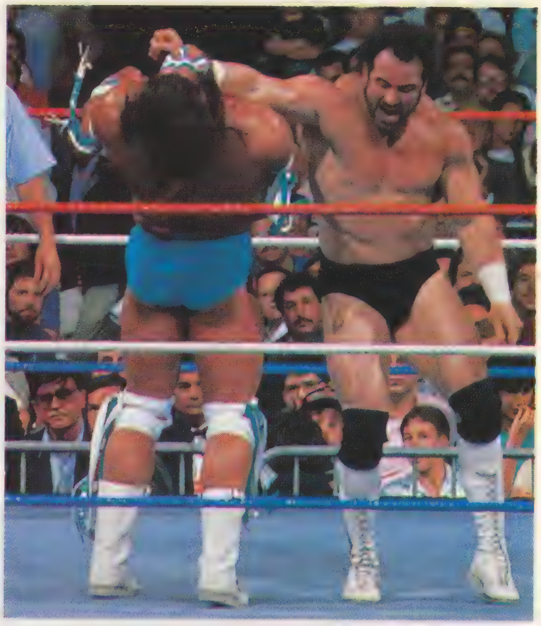
ULTIMATE WARRIOR

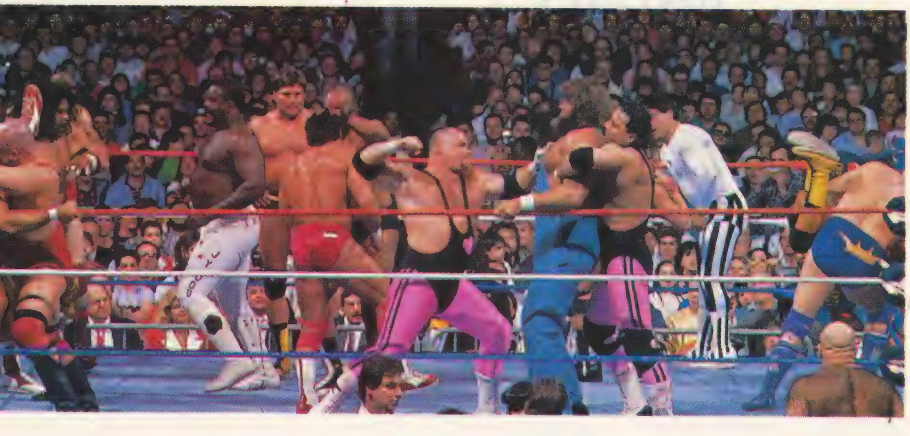
VS

HERCULES

These two mighty men of muscle met in a confrontation that tested the colossal strength of each to the limits. Hercules went in confident; the Ultimate Warrior, smoking. Hercules' confidence was shaken as he tried twice to shoulderblock the Warrior with no effect, then failed to budge him with a series of clotheslines. The third shoulderblock, however, floored the Warrior.

Even so, the Warrior rebounded, using a clothesline of his own to cut down Hercules.





Undaunted, Hercules ducked a blow by the Warrior and threw him out of the ring, where a pier six brawl ensued, with Hercules getting the better of it by savagely battering his opponent's head into the ring steps.

Pressing his advantage, Hercules worked over the Warrior in a corner. Again, the tide turned, and with clubbing blows, the Warrior battered back. The massively muscled bodies of both men shuddered under the repeated impact of their respective blows.

There was no letup. Hercules came out of the corner and jarred the Warrior with an atomic drop. The Warrior charged at Hercules but missed and rammed into the buckles, with his back to Hercules.

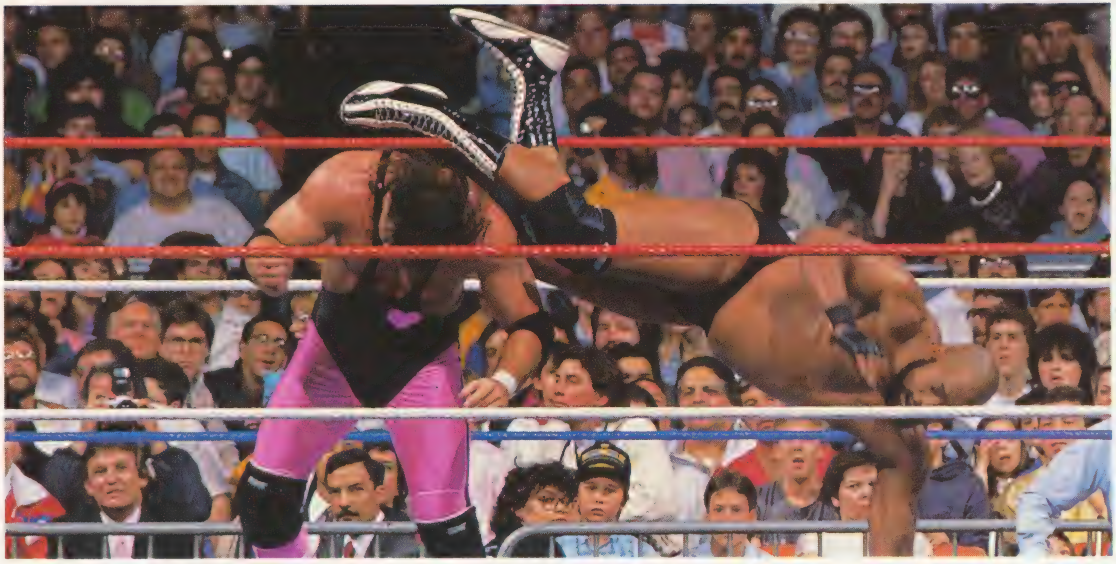
Seizing the moment, Hercules attempted to clamp on his feared full nelson to gain the win by submission. His arms knotted, Hercules tried to bend the Warrior's massive neck. The Warrior's veins stood out as he resisted. Then, with unexpected craft, the Warrior raised his feet, propped them on the turnbuckles and kicked off. With a resounding thud, the two men hit the canvas, both on their backs. The referee began the count. As his hand hit the mat for the third time, the Warrior raised one shoulder. Hercules' shoulders were still down.

The Ultimate Warrior was the victor. Hercules was wild with anger. Raging, he grabbed his heavy chain and wrapped it around the Warrior's neck. The links cut into flesh as the Warrior dug his fingers into the chain and strained to break free. To the astonishment of all, he succeeded and, swinging the chain, drove Hercules from the ring.

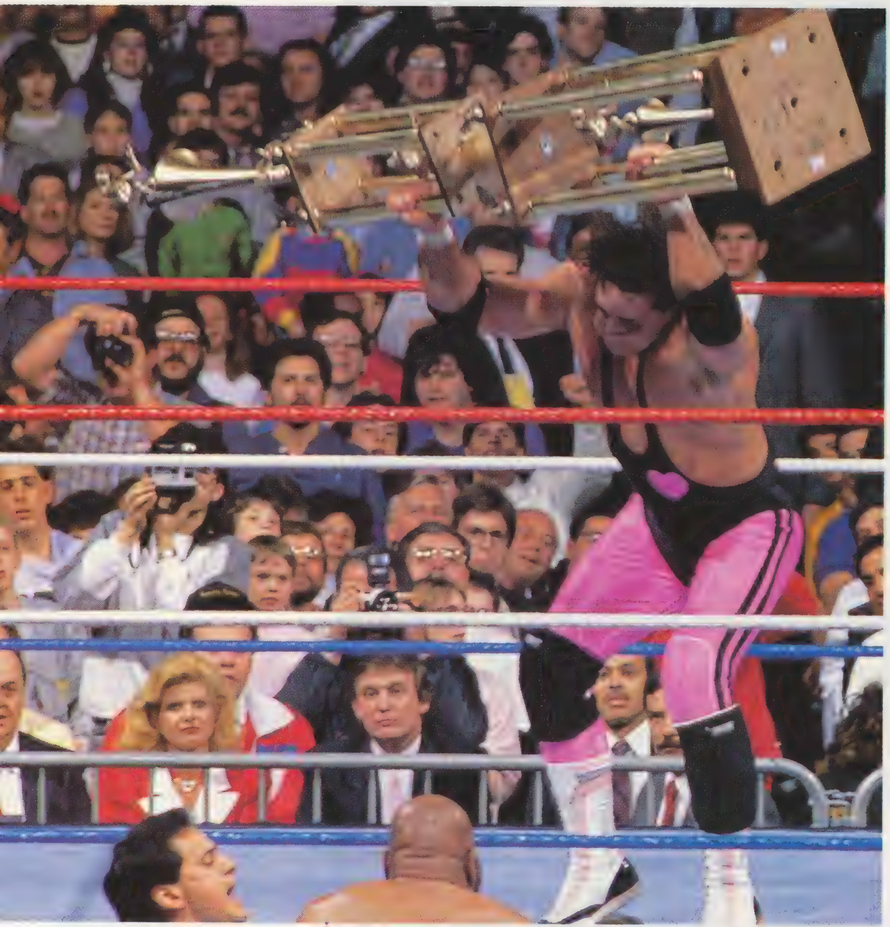
20-MAN OVER-THE-TOP BATTLE ROYAL

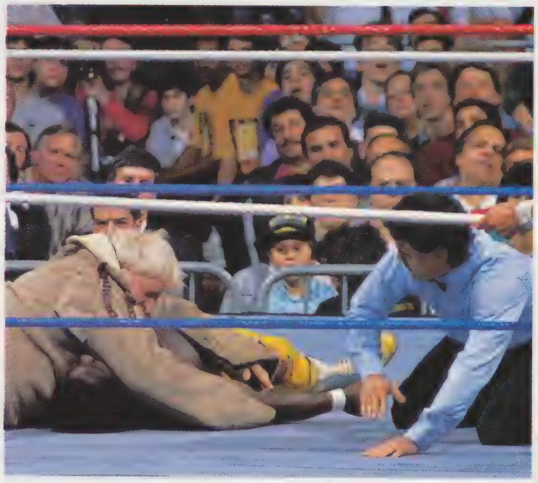
The ring was jam-packed with sturdy bodies. The second the bell rang, each was in action, shoving, slugging and wrestling. Soon some of these bodies were flying over the top rope and hitting the concrete. Out went the likes of Sam Houston, Ken Patera, the Killer Bees, Raymond Rougeau and Hillbilly Jim.

In the end, a trio remained—the Junk Yard Dog, Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Bad News Brown. Brown and Hart appeared to have signed a truce and joined as allies. They



In this match of muscle, the Warrior and Hercules exchanged multiple clotheslines. After being bested by the Warrior, Hercules sought revenge and used his chain on the future Intercontinental Champion. *WrestleMania IV* also included an exciting 20-man battle royal, spotlighting many of the WWF's most aggressive superstars. In the end, it was Bret Hart versus Bad News Brown. After feigning friendship, Brown turned on Hart to win out in the encounter.





Furious over Brown's betrayal, the Hit Man unceremoniously destroyed the winner's trophy, smashing it into literally a hundred pieces. A six-man tag team match saw the British Bulldogs join forces with the Birdman Koko B. Ware. They opposed the threesome of Bobby Heenan and his Islanders, Haku and Tama. When all was said and done, the Brain covered the Birdman for the final count.

whispered strategy to one another and then attacked the Dog. He fought back, but to no avail, and he ended up on the floor.

It was then that Bad News gave evidence that, as he says, he has no friends. After high-fiving Hart, Brown struck him from behind with a ghetto blaster. Seconds later, Hart was headed over the ropes, and Bad News had himself a beautiful victor's trophy.

He had it, but only for a minute. As Brown gloated with his black-gloved fist held high, Hart edged into the ring, dropkicked the victor from behind and tore apart the trophy, tossing the base at Bads News, who was standing in the aisle.

The Hit Man had his revenge. And the world had been served notice—never, never trust Bad News Brown.

THE BRITISH BULLDOGS & KOKO B. WARE

VS

THE ISLANDERS & BOBBY "THE BRAIN" HEENAN

The Brain was ready. He had clad himself in a protective dog trainer's suit to ward off the choppers of the British Bulldog's canine sidekick, Matilda.

Despite his attire, Heenan took little part in the match as the Islanders and Bulldogs, together with Koko, knocked heads. Eventually, Heenan tagged in, only to be rocked with a dropkick.

In came the Islanders. Ditto the British Bulldogs. They brawled. As the referee ushered the Bulldogs from the ring, the Islanders hit Ware with a double bodyslam, then dropped the groggy Brain atop him. When the referee turned, he saw Heenan making an apparent pin and—to the disgust of just about everyone—Bobby the Brain was declared the winner.

WrestleMania IV was a time of unique surprises and celebration. It was a time when many of the participants showed their true colors: Tito Santana courageously staying alive under ferocious double-teaming, Bad News Brown double-crossing his apparent ally and Hulk Hogan showing the selflessness and courage that ultimately led to his reclaiming the most important title in the World Wrestling Federation. WF

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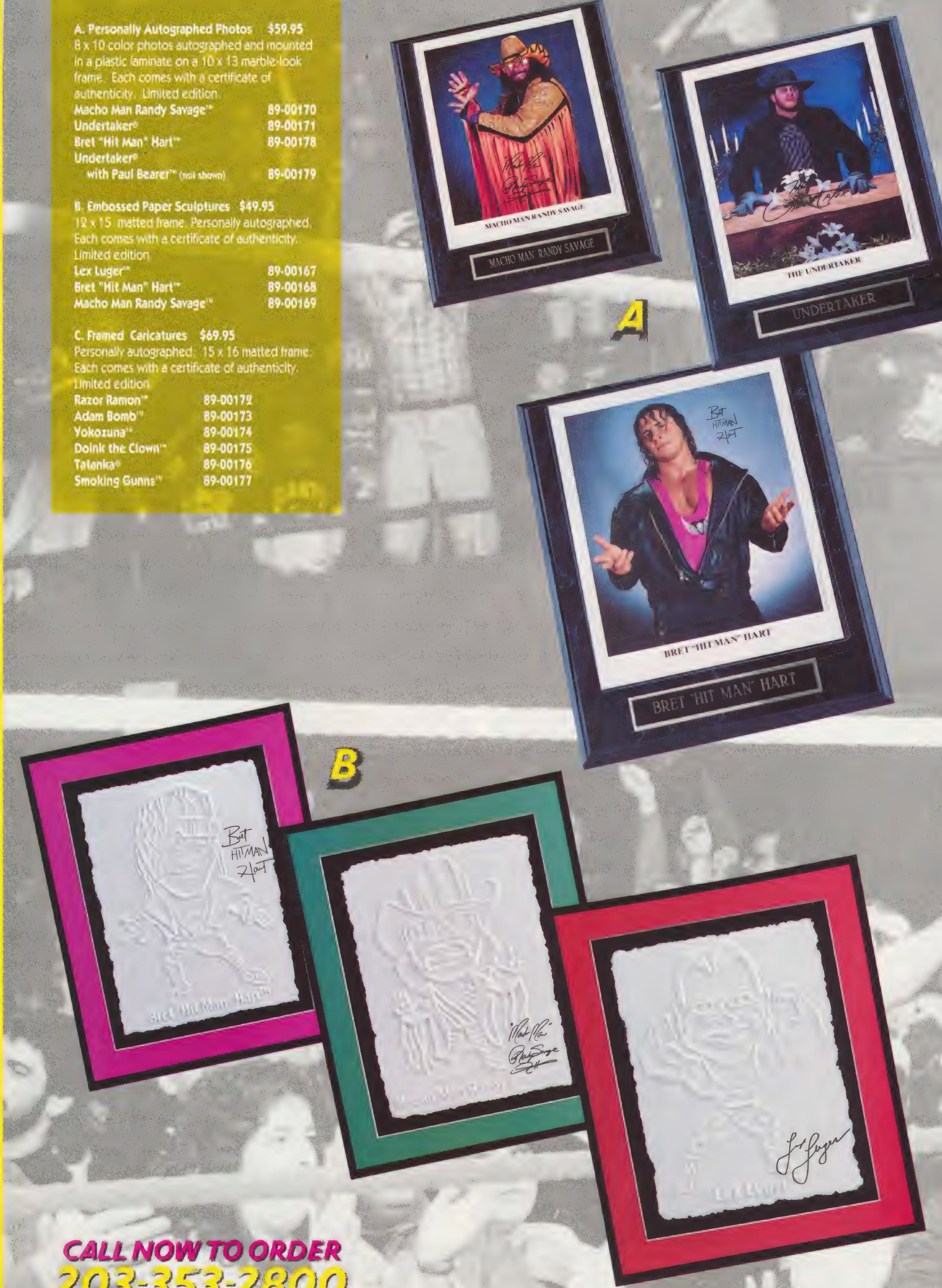
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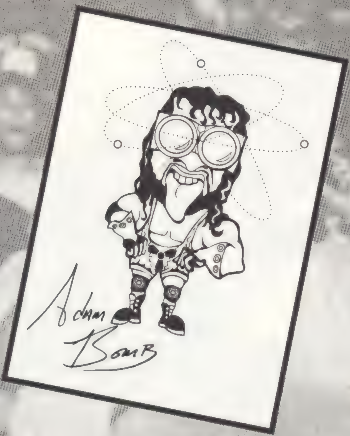
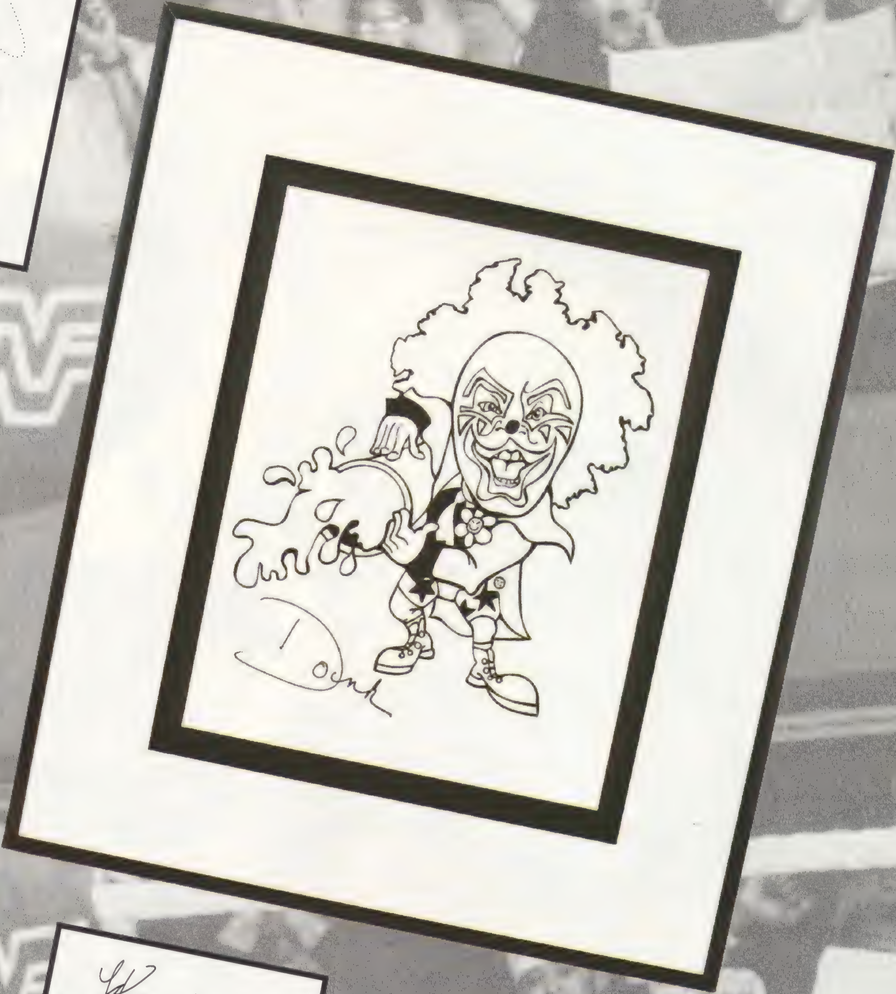
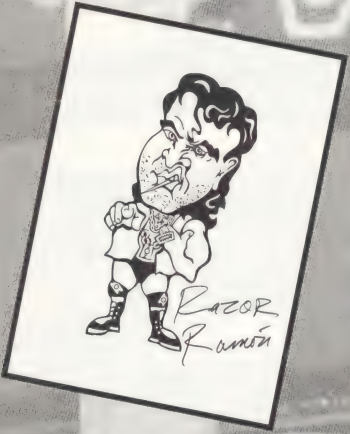
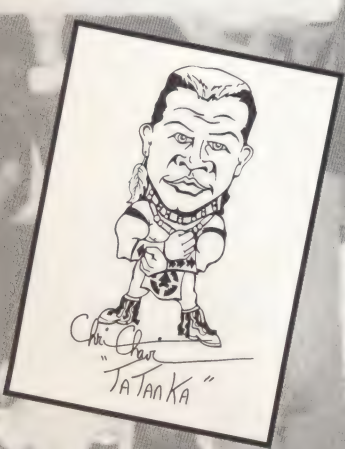





Razor Ramon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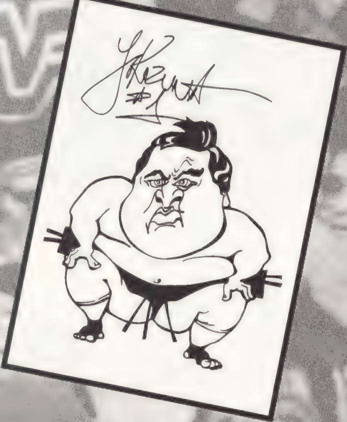
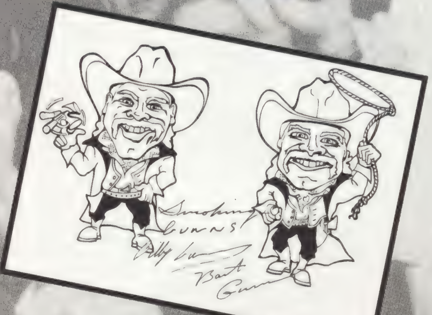
"TaTanKa"

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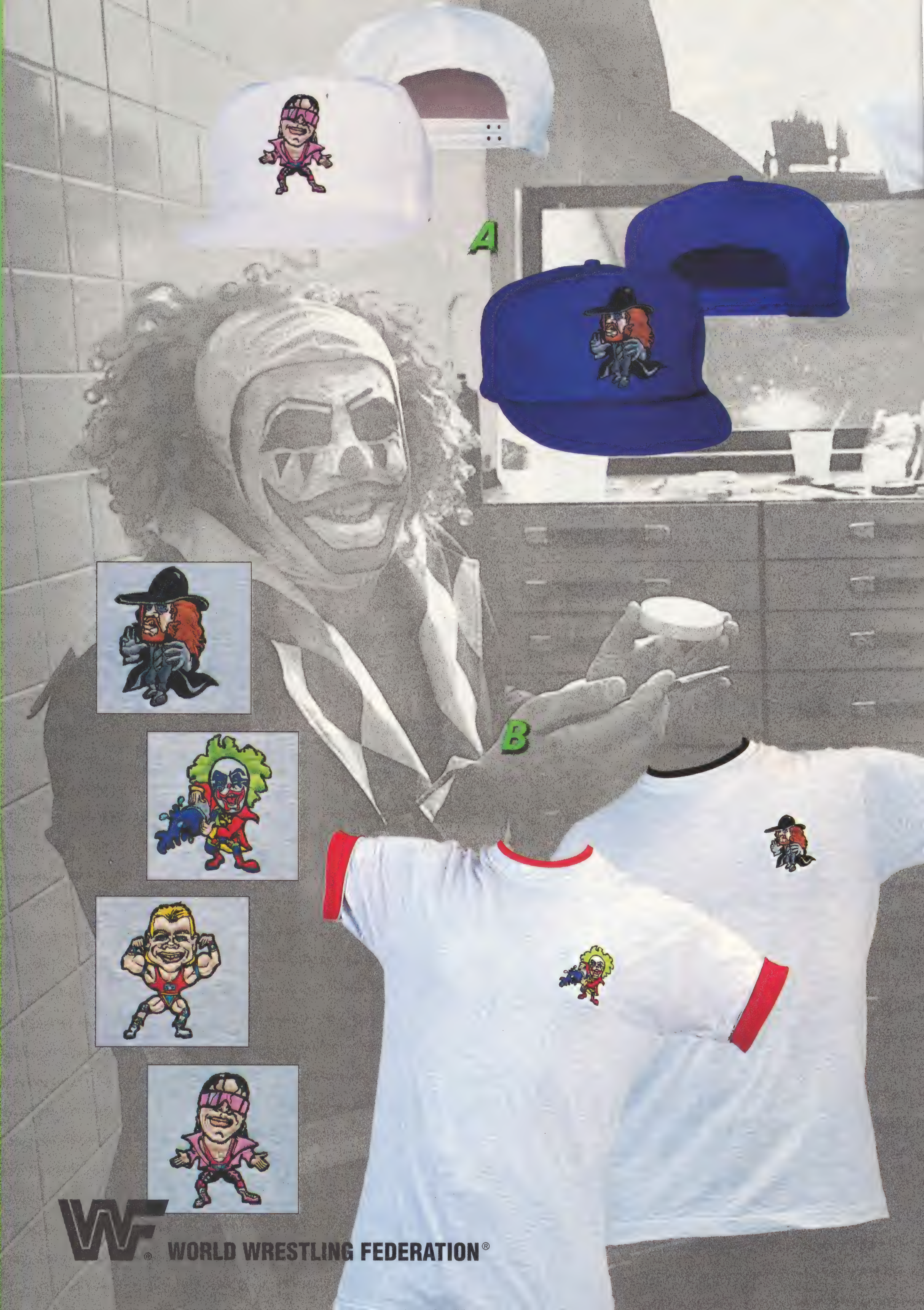

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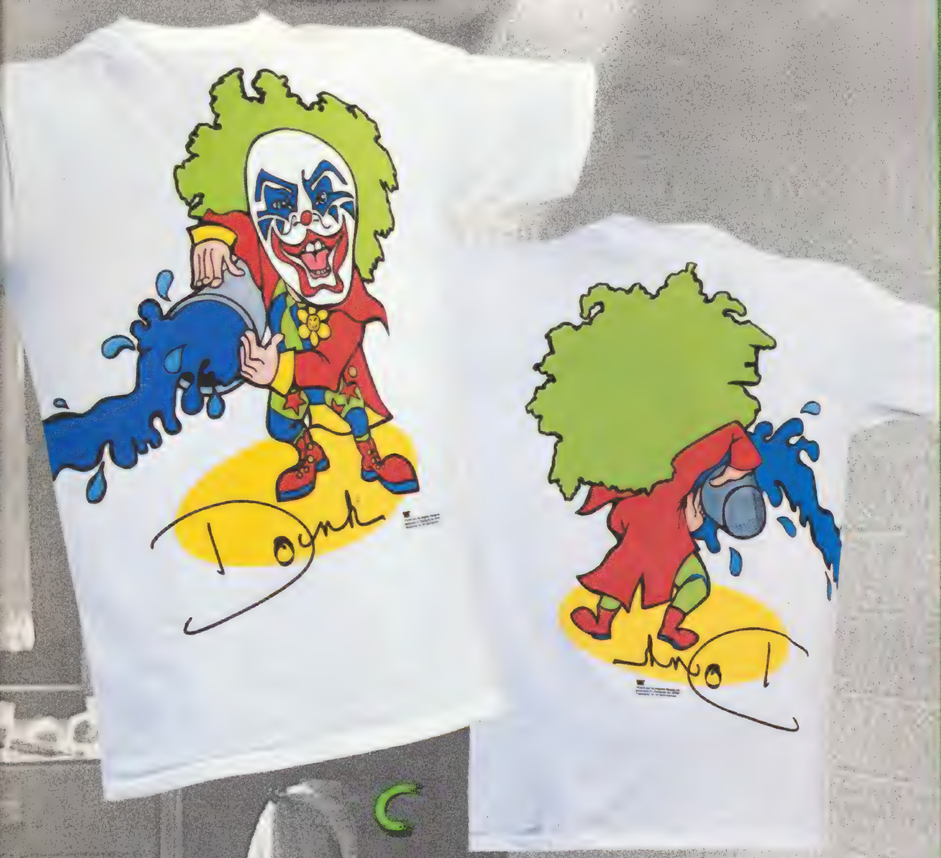

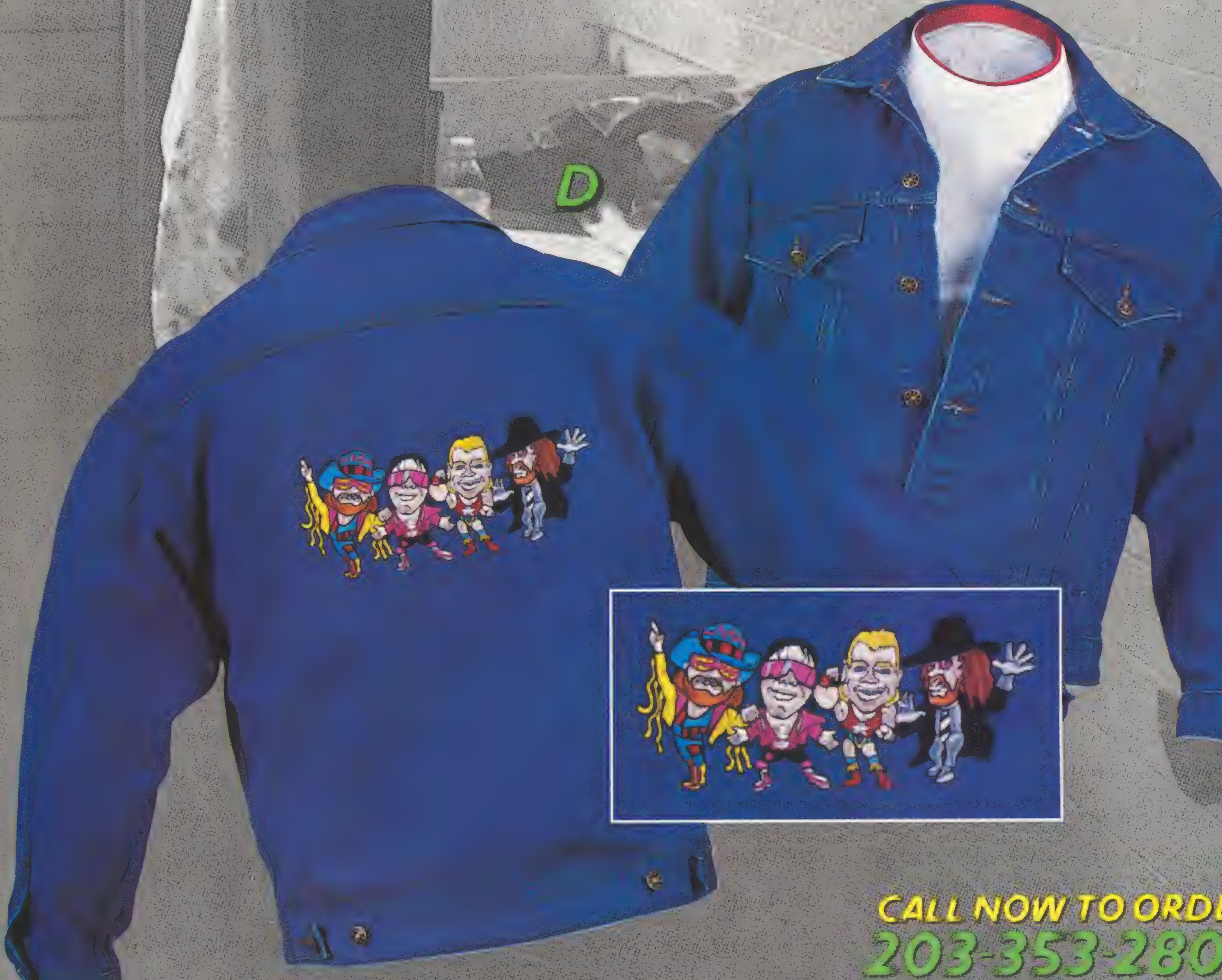

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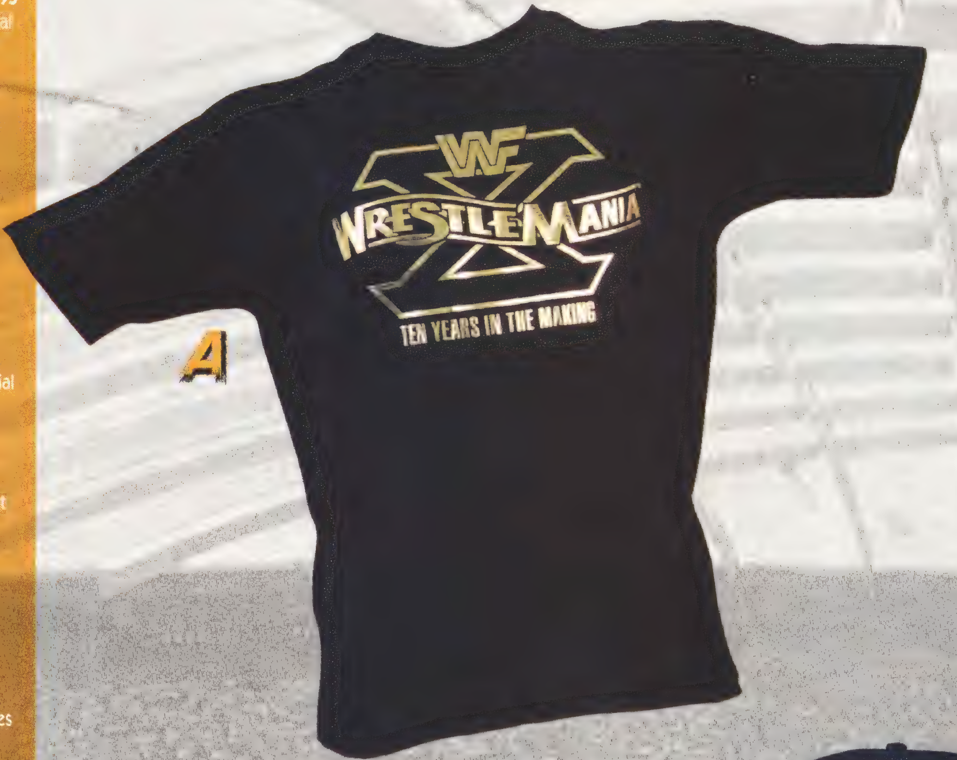

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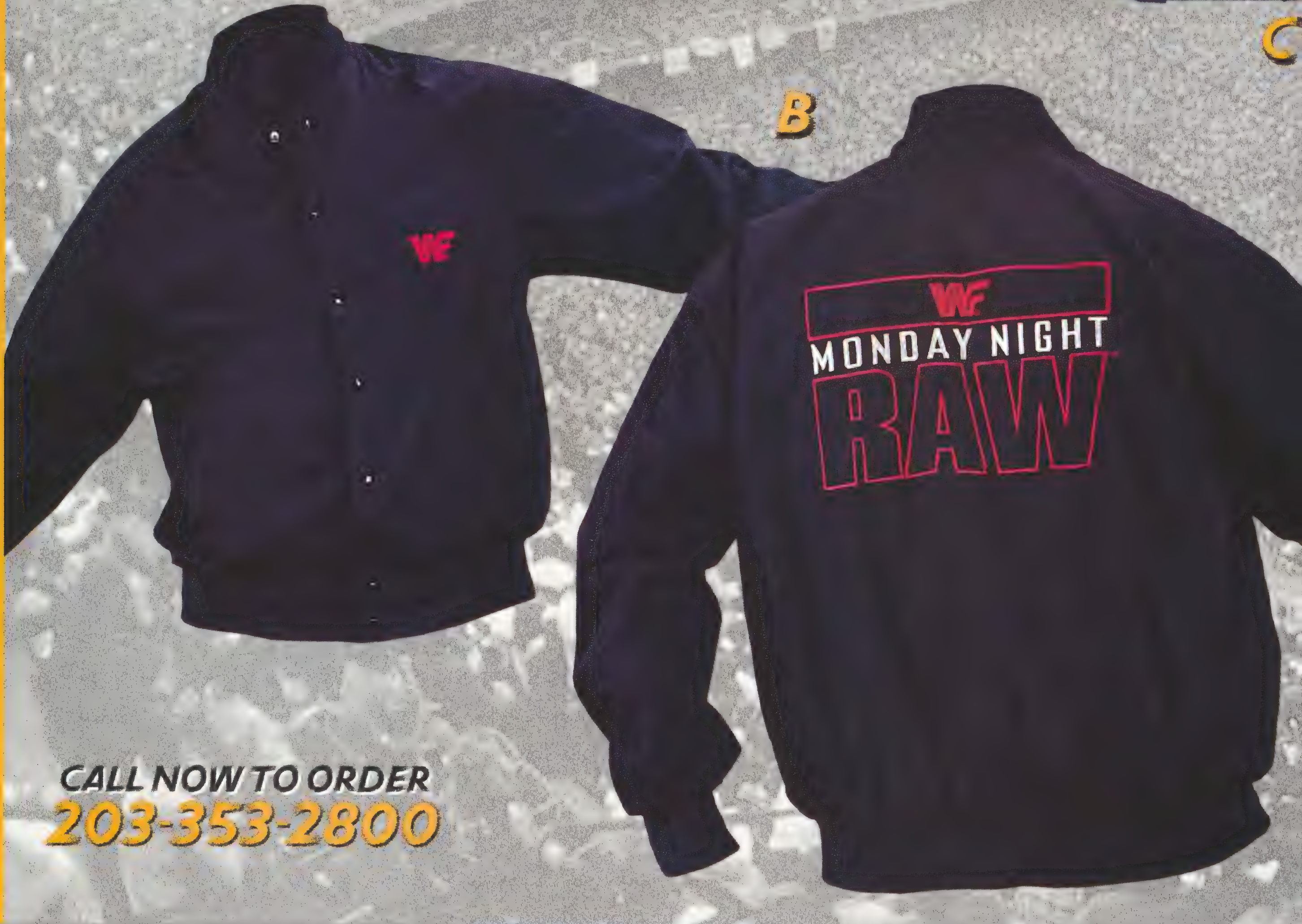

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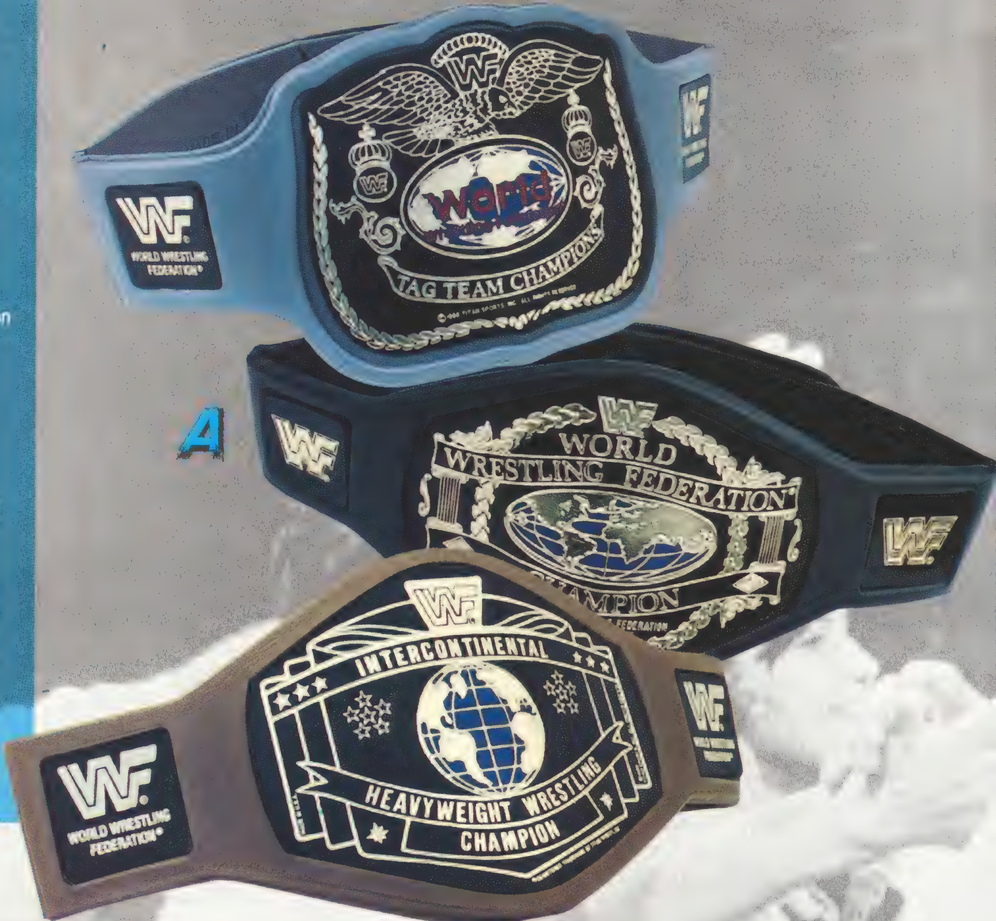
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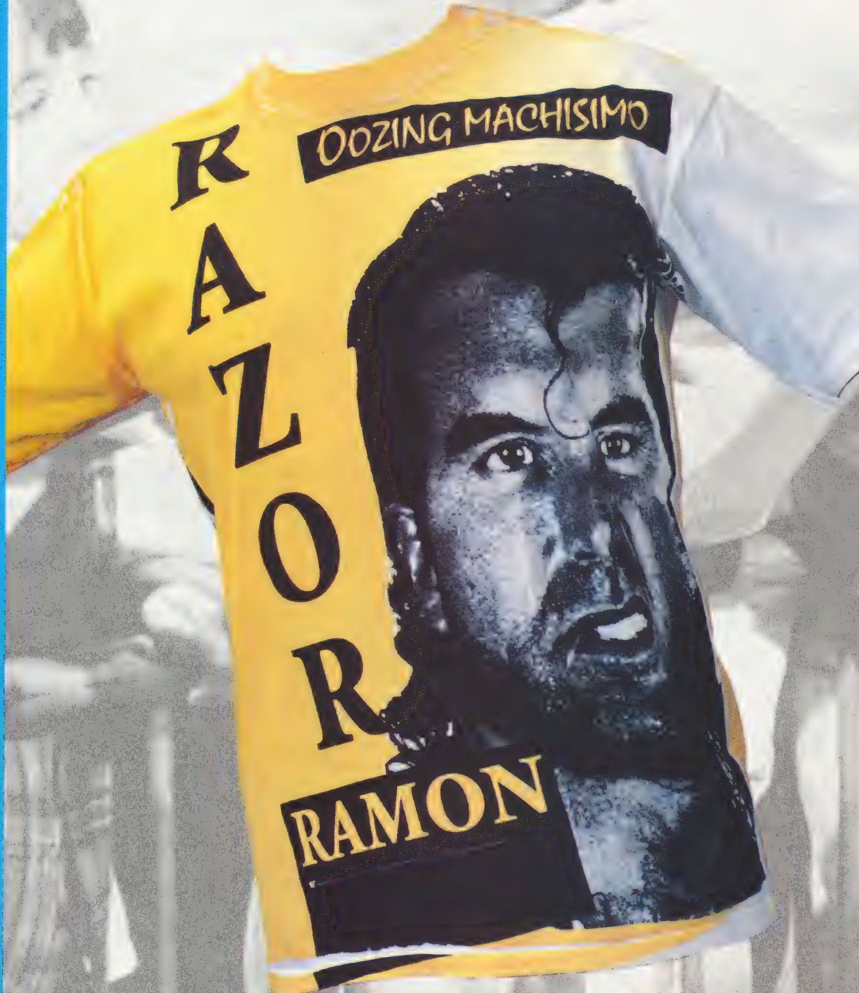
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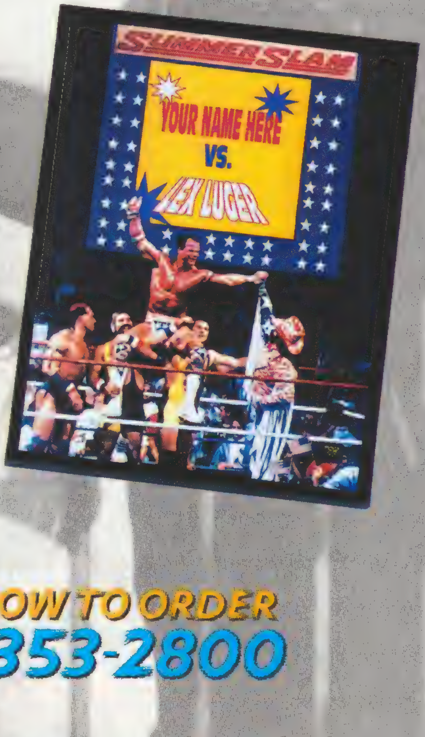
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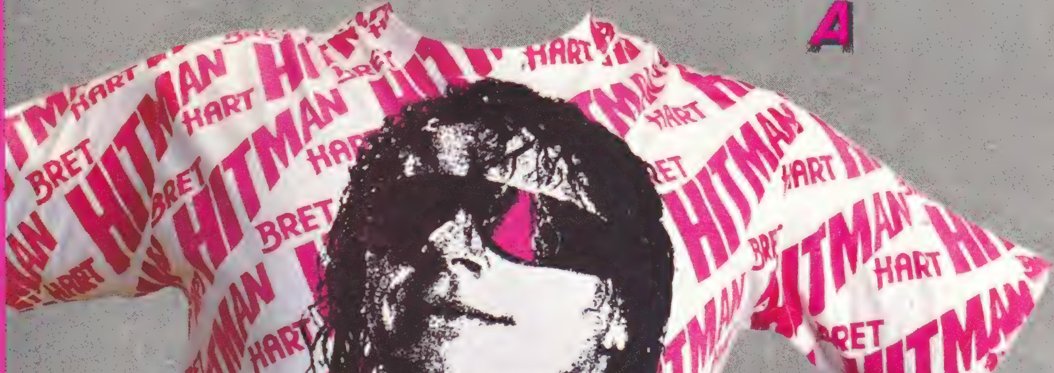
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BRET
HART

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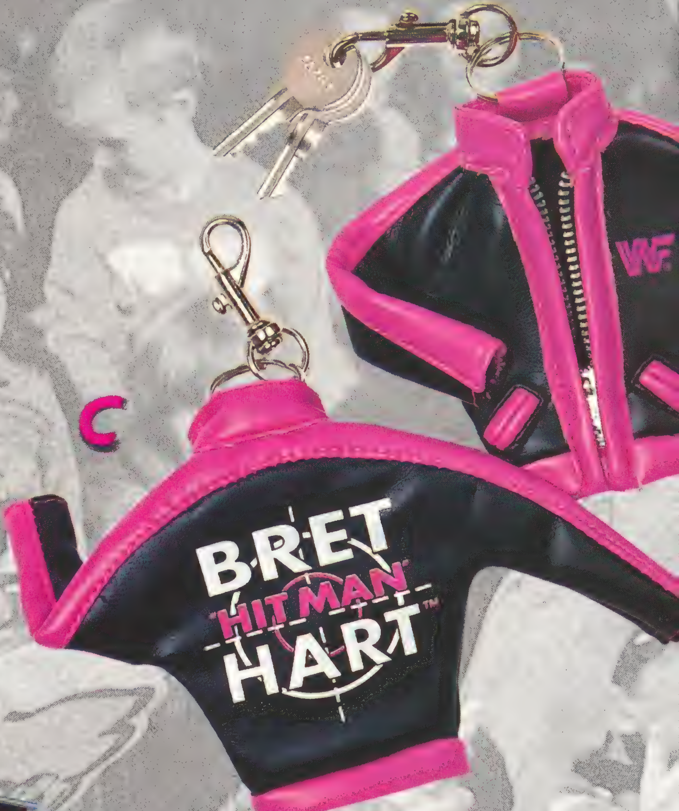
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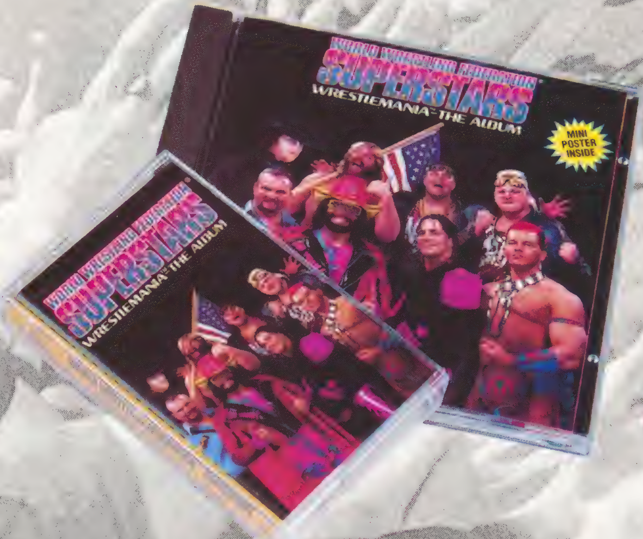
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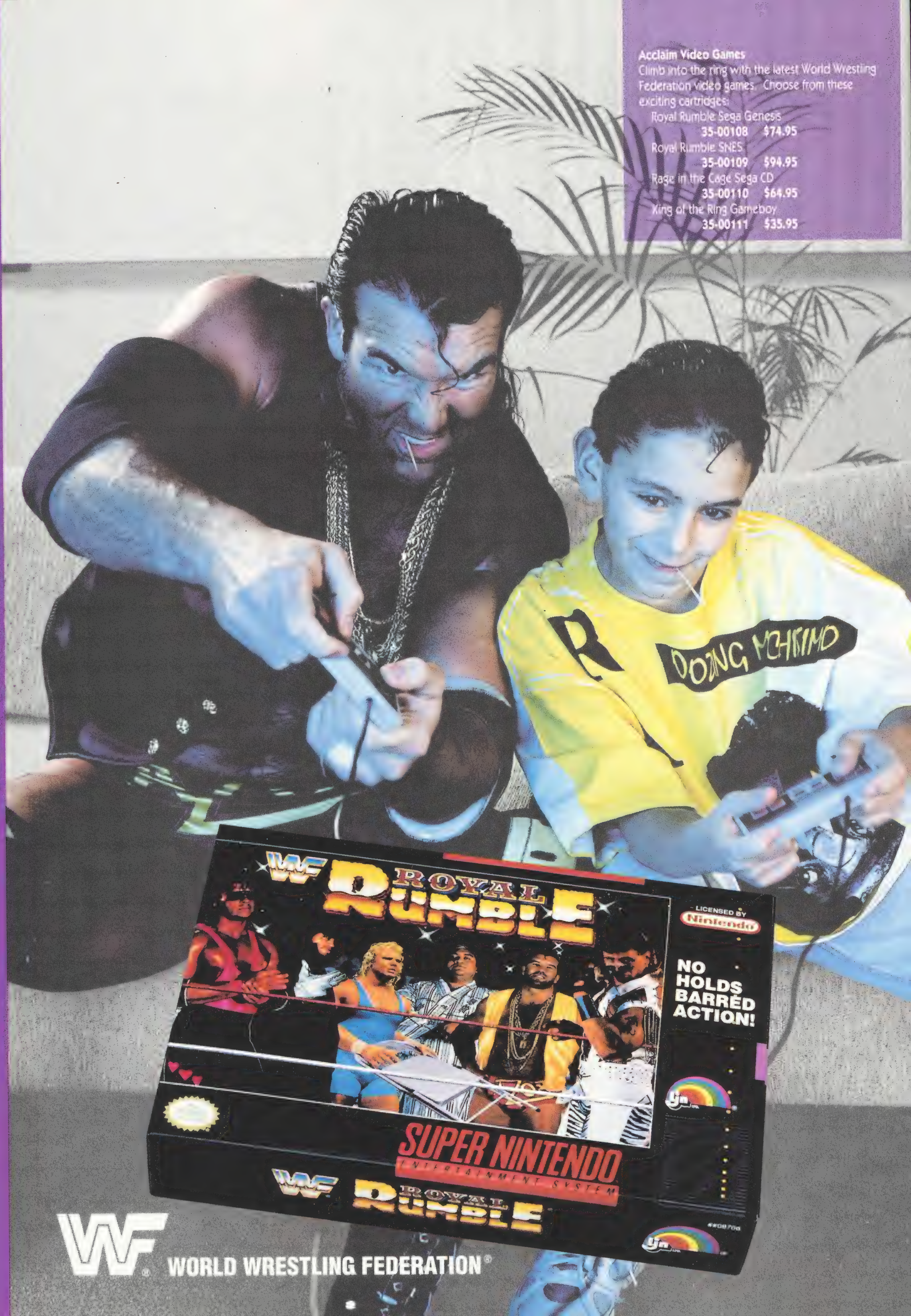
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The Hulkster Battles The Giant

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

WrestleMania III was one of the most monumental events of all time, setting and breaking records the world over. On March 29, 1987, some 93,173 fans jampacked the Pontiac Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan, to witness 12 electrifying and thrilling matches, including the main event in which WWF Champion Hulk Hogan clashed with former friend Andre the Giant.

This matchup—which was one of the most publicized ever—set the tempo for *WrestleMania III.* Fans from across the country converged on Pontiac. Some of them traveled from as far away as California to take in the slams and be a part of history. It was the largest audience ever assembled to witness an indoor sporting event. Millions more saw the spectacular on pay-per-view cable television. This event went down in the record books as one of the greatest and most successful pay-per-view shows ever. Even more World Wrestling Federation supporters filled local arenas from coast to coast to watch *WrestleMania III* on closed-circuit superscreens.

Along with the phenomenal matches at *WrestleMania III*, people were also delighted to hear *Entertainment Tonight's* Mary Hart speak her mind to the pay-per-view audience as well as to Mr. Baseball Bob Uecker who did his best to maintain composure. All in all, these two personalities added even more to this already incredible historic event.

After the star-studded gala was over, a videocassette of *WrestleMania III* was produced and released, selling a record number of copies. *WrestleMania III* broke new ground, showing the entire universe that *Hulkamania* and the World Wrestling Federation are definitely here to stay!

HULK HOGAN

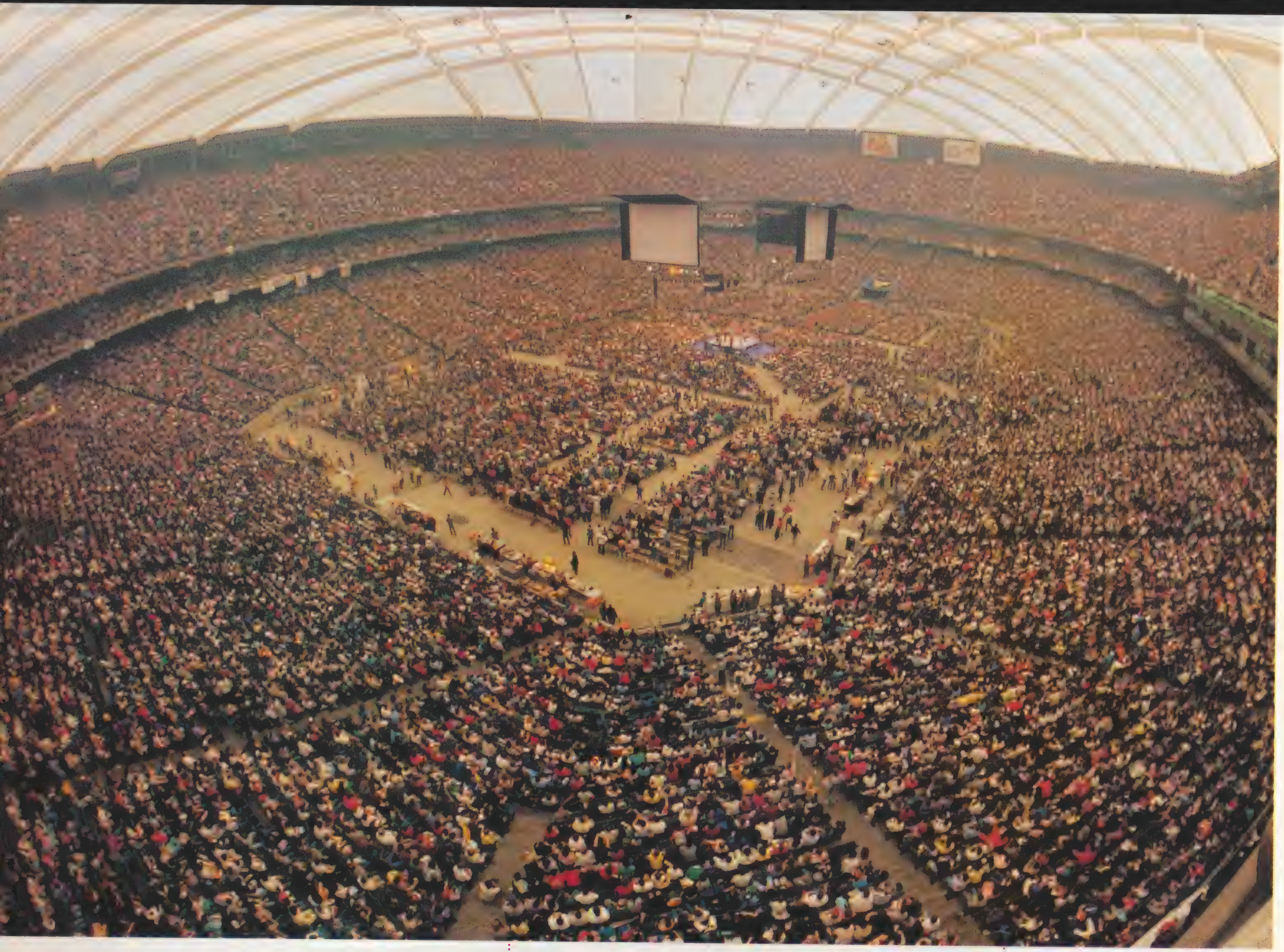
VS

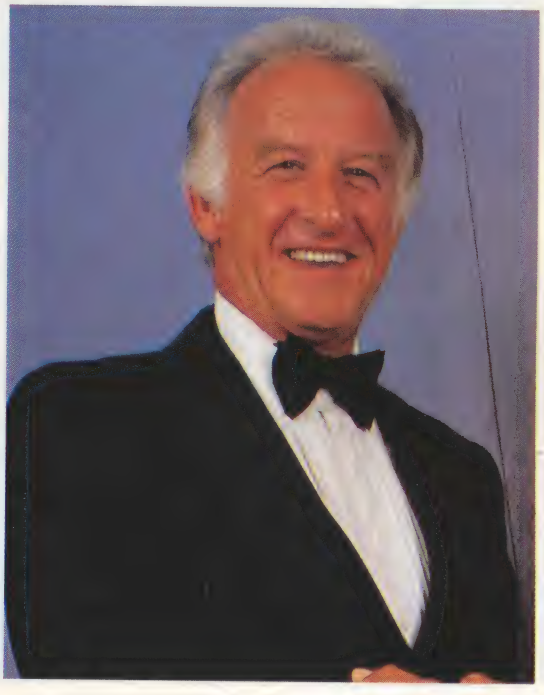
ANDRE THE GIANT

FOR THE WWF CHAMPIONSHIP

Andre the Giant, all 7 feet 4 inches of him, stepped over the ropes and locked eyes with World Wrestling Federation Champion Hulk Hogan. Without question, this *WrestleMania III* match was to be the Hulkster's greatest test as a champion in 1987. Putting aside the good memories that he shared with Andre over the past three years, Hogan stood in his corner, prepared for combat.

Lumbering, Andre came to center ring, where he and the champion stood face-to-face, staring each other down. Before any blows were thrown, Hulk talked to the Giant, perhaps asking him if he really wanted to go through with the match. Andre responded coldly and shoved Hogan. Rebounding quickly, Hulk fired several shots into the Giant's face and then went for a bodyslam. But





Over 93,000 screaming fans were on hand for *WrestleMania III* at the Pontiac Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan. This enormous mass of humanity set the all-time world indoor attendance record. Also, many of entertainment's most popular personalities appeared at *WrestleMania III*, including Mr. Baseball Bob Uecker and universally acclaimed singer Aretha Franklin, who sang *America the Beautiful* to kick off this WWF mega-event.

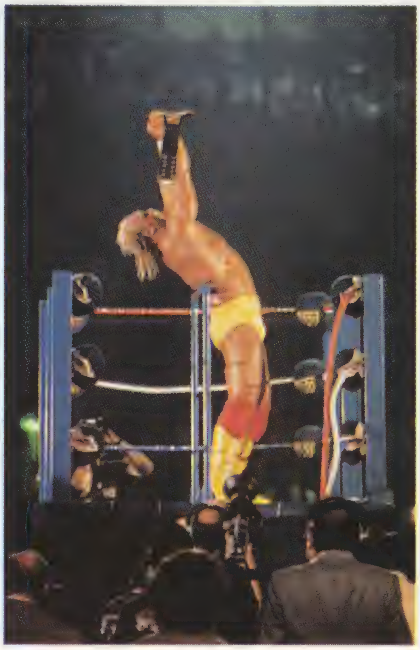
The Hulkster and Andre stared one another down prior to locking up. Mere seconds into the match, Hulk attempted to slam the Giant, but his immense weight was too much for Hogan to handle. From there, the battle raged out of control. First, in the ring, Andre elbowed the WWF Champion. Then the struggle resumed on the floor, where Andre hacked away at Hogan.

Andre's weight was too much for the champion, as the "Eighth Wonder of the World" came down right on top of him, putting the Hulkster's shoulders on the canvas.

The count was fast. In fact, the referee came within a hair's breadth of slapping his palm on the mat for a third time. Andre's manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, cried out his complaint.

The conflict in the ring moved at a rapid pace. First, the champion gained control, clotheslining Andre and reeling him with ferocious rights and lefts. Then Andre came back with eye rakes and chokes. From there, the battle continued on the arena floor, where the two behemoths exchanged a series of fist-fighting volleys.

When the two men returned to the confines of the ropes, the Hulkster seized control of the match. Bobby Heenan looked on in dismay as Hogan had his way with the Giant, hitting him with every available weapon. Controlling the tempo of the bout, the champion was on a roll, and a bodyslam and legdrop later, Andre the Giant—for the first time in his long wrestling career—had been soundly beaten. Hulk Hogan triumphed in front of the millions upon millions of his screaming Hulkamaniacs.



In the end, the Hulkster captured the moment. After slamming the Giant with the impact of a multi-megaton explosion, Hulk sealed the win permanently with a legdrop that knocked the wind out of Andre and put his shoulders on the canvas for a three-count. Surviving the toughest test to that date, the Hulkster was then transported back to the locker room with the WWF belt in hand. Another great match pitted Rowdy Roddy Piper against the late Adrian Adonis.

ROWDY RODDY PIPER

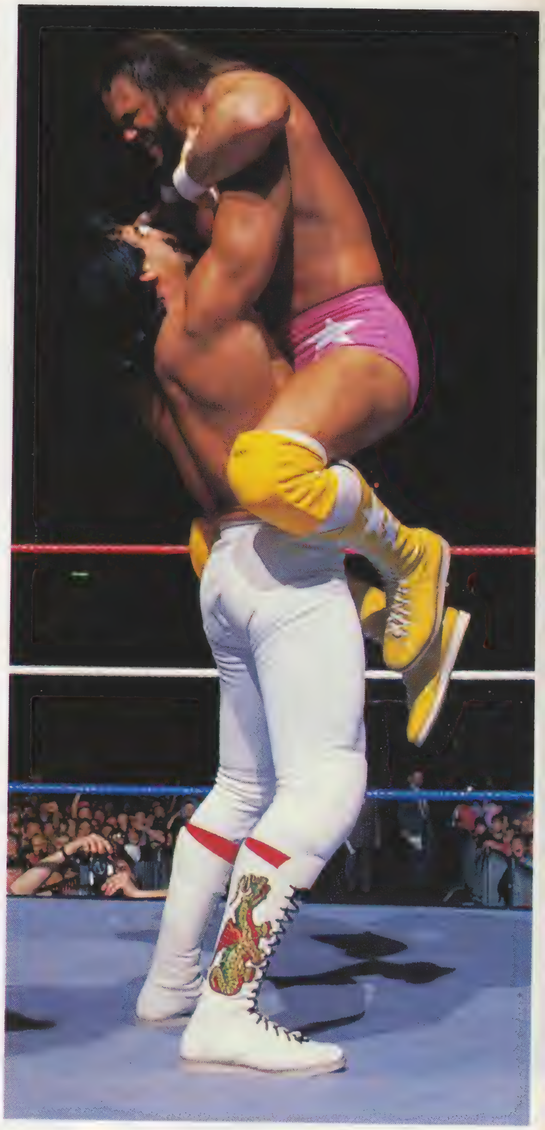
VS

ADORABLE ADRIAN ADONIS

As he promised right before the glittering extravaganza, Rowdy Roddy Piper would retire—win, lose or draw—after his match with the late Adrian Adonis. Managed by Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, Adorable Adrian—as he was known to the world—was bent on cutting Piper's hair, no matter what. However, it would never come about.

During their confrontation, Hot Rod bested Adonis move for move and punch for punch. After a wild match in which Piper and Adrian lashed each other with a leather strap, the Rowdy One captured Adonis in a sleeperhold. Like so many athletes before, Adrian was soon sawing wood in la-la land.

Enter Brutus Beefcake. While Adonis slept in the middle of the ring, Brutus rushed in, grabbed a pair of battery-operated barber's shears and proceeded to cut every last lock off the Adorable One's head. Beefcake was retaliating for an incident that occurred before *WrestleMania III* on *WWF Superstars of Wrestling*. In a six-man tag team match, Bru-



Piper outclassed Adonis with a sleeperhold. While he was out cold, Brutus came in and earned his nickname, the Barber. In a match for the Intercontinental Title, Randy Savage tested Ricky Steamboat. As the match progressed, both athletes tore into one another with a wide range of tactics. When Savage got tangled in the ropes, the Dragon went to town on him.

tus and Greg "The Hammer" Valentine had linked up with Adrian, who toted a pair of scissors. Adrian, by mistake, cut Brutus' cherished hair when the action spilled close to Adonis. To get even for this insult, Beefcake chose *WrestleMania III.*

When Beefcake finished with him, Adonis was a skinhead, and Roddy let him know about it when he placed a mirror directly in front of Adrian's face.

MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE

VS

RICKY STEAMBOAT

FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

This bout would be for the Intercontinental Title and will long be remembered as a match that was a true classic.

Then-champion Macho Man Randy Savage was escorted to the ring by his manager, the radiant Miss Elizabeth. Facing Savage was Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, who had nearly suffered a permanent throat injury at the hands of the Macho Man several months earlier. For both men, this match had personal significance. In Steamboat's corner, to make sure Savage wouldn't have the opportunity to pull the same tricks again, was George "The Animal" Steele.

The Steamboat-Savage confrontation was breathtaking, with both combatants exchanging montages of moves and countermoves. The Dragon threw Savage off-balance with a continuing series of deep armdrags. However, just when Steamboat gained the edge, Savage—a well-versed veteran—jammed his thumb into Ricky's eyes, temporarily blinding him. Seizing the moment, the Macho

Man tried to whip Steamboat to the ropes, but the Dragon reversed it and tried doing the same to Savage, who on instinct alone, again reversed the maneuver. With a handful of Ricky's hair, the Macho Man threw his opponent over the top rope. The Dragon, however, held firmly onto the top strand and, utilizing his great strength and flexibility, muscled his way up and over the ropes without even touching the arena floor. It was an incredible display of athleticism.

With the momentum going in his favor, the Dragon mounted a fast-paced, furious offensive but was soon cut down by Savage. The end came for him when the Macho Man scaled up to the top turnbuckle holding the timekeeper's bell as Steamboat lay on the mat. Savage had used this same weapon to inflict a larynx injury on Ricky months earlier. However, Steamboat's safeguard, Steele, stopped Savage before he could go any further. With timely intervention, the Animal pushed the well-balanced Macho Man off the ropes in a heap. He crashed to the canvas and, shortly afterward, was pinned with a small package by Steamboat. History was made as the Dragon upended his Macho foe to take the Intercontinental Belt.

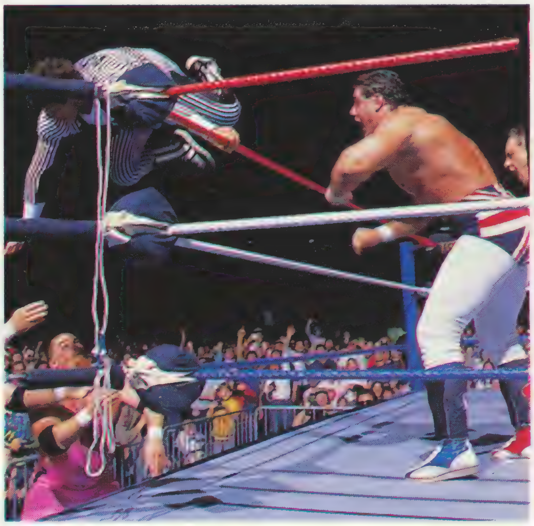
THE BRITISH BULLDOGS & TITO SANTANA

VS

THE HART FOUNDATION & DANNY DAVIS

The excitement and the action kept moving at a whirlwind pace as the millions of spectators prepared themselves to watch a heated six-man tag team battle. Then-WWF tag team titlists the Hart Foundation, Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart and Bret "Hit Man" Hart, and their partner, referee-turned-wrestler Dangerous Danny Davis, took on the British Bulldogs, Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith, along with Tito Santana.

This was a chance for the Bulldogs and Tito to gain revenge against the Foundation and Davis, who collectively had cost the Bulldogs the WWF Tag Team Championship a few months earlier in Tampa, Florida, when Davis put a fast three-count on a thoroughly battered Smith. Also, another of Davis' controversial decisions cost Tito the Intercontinental strap a short time before. It all came to a head underneath the bright lights of the Silverdome, and both trios tore into each other viciously. Several times during the bout, the Bulldogs and Santana appeared to have the advantage, as the Hart Foundation and Dangerous Danny reeled from the assault. Soon chaos enveloped the match when all six men began brawling. The Foundation's manager, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, who was standing at ringside, decided



that the time was right to pull a fast one.

When the Hit Man tossed Santana through the ropes and the Anvil battled it out with Dynamite, the Mouth hurled his megaphone into the ring. It landed, appropriately enough, right in the hands of Danny Davis, who bashed it over Davey Boy's head—knocking him out cold—while the referee

The finale of the Steamboat-Savage clash saw Ricky pin Savage with a small package after he escaped several pinfalls by pulling Steamboat's tights. During a six-man tag team match, the Foundation linked up with Dangerous Danny Davis and met Tito Santana and the British Bulldogs. Tito bounced Danny off the ropes, and continuing the abuse, the Bulldogs then threw Davis onto his partners. But Danny gained revenge when he and Bret Hart choked Tito with the tag rope.

struggled to maintain order. As the catcalls rained down on the Foundation from the Silverdome's rafters, Davis, smiling evilly, lay across the fallen Bulldog for the pin. The British Bulldogs and Tito Santana were defeated by their opponents' deceit and ill will.

JUNK YARD DOG

VS

KING HARLEY RACE

The first king of the WWF, King Harley Race, put his kingdom on the line when he squared off against the Junk Yard Dog. Entering the ring with manager Bobby Heenan and the first queen of wrestling, the Fabulous Moolah, Harley seemed confident of victory.

The match between Race and JYD was one of the most punishing athletic events of the night. Race, a master wrestling craftsman, stunned the Dog several times with superb textbook suplexes. But JYD rallied, nailing the WWF's ring ruler with skullringing headbutts. As the bout progressed, Race took the advantage and rolled the Dog up for the pin. The rules of this contest stated that the loser must bow before the winner. JYD knelt in front of King Harley but then erupted with fury and anger and lunged after Race and his manager, totally disrupting their celebration and causing them to flee the ring area.

THE ROUGEAU BROTHERS

VS

THE DREAM TEAM

In a tag team match, Canadian brothers Jacques and Raymond Rougeau, who later called themselves the Fabulous Rougeaus, met the Dream Team, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine and Brutus Beefcake. Accompanying the team was Canadian strongman Dino Bravo, who stayed at ringside to help with some of the blow-by-blow strategies. Weeks earlier, the editors at *WWF Magazine* had discovered that there was some sort of dissension brewing between the Dream Team members, although neither of them would openly admit to the allegations.

Nevertheless, the match went on, and the Dream Team emerged victorious when Bravo

Neidhart wore down Dynamite with a reverse chinlock. When the match erupted into a melee, Jimmy Hart threw his megaphone in the ring, where Davis used it to knock out Davey Boy for the pinfall. *WrestleMania III* saw the Dream Team tangle with the Rougeau Brothers. Tito Santana shred Slick's tailor-made suit after Butch Reed beat Koko B. Ware.

interfered. This was a turning point for the Dream Team, particularly for Beefcake. After Valentine and Brutus were announced the winners, Bravo and the Hammer left the ring without Beefcake. The trio of cutthroats called Brutus the "weak link" of the organization; however, as we know now, fans everywhere are calling Brutus Beefcake "The Barber" as a result of *WrestleMania III.*

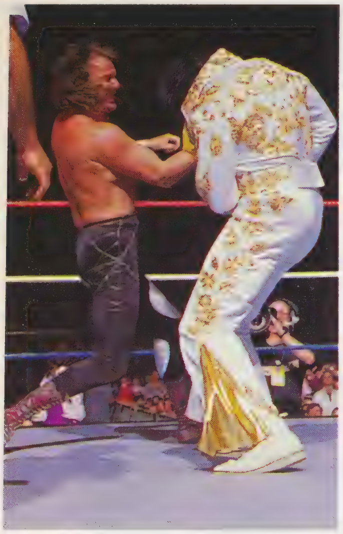
KOKO B. WARE

VS

THE NATURAL BUTCH REED

The suspense and thrill of *WrestleMania III* never lagged a single second. This next match was a testament to that fact, when the Natural Butch Reed, who was under the tutelage of the Doctor of Style, Slick, went one-on-one with the Birdman Koko B. Ware, who flew into *WrestleMania III* like a hawk. Koko, the high-flier, dazzled Reed, the brawler, with well-placed dropkicks and flying bodypresses. Utilizing his impressive resources, however, the Natural mounted an all-important comeback with a series of jabs and eye rakes. With these hard-nosed and illegal tactics, Reed clawed his way to a pinfall.

Enter Tito Santana. Ever since Slick's arrival on the World Wrestling Federation scene, he had tossed barbs at Santana, insulting him and his heritage. With the world as an audience, Tito made up his mind to humiliate Slick. Santana grabbed hold of the Slickster and, piece by piece, ripped his tailor-made suit to shreds. Since then, Santana and Slick have been mortal enemies, and one way or another, the Doctor of Style promises that he will make Tito Santana pay for his actions at *WrestleMania III.*



In a long-awaited confrontation, Jake Roberts dueled with Honky Tonk Man. Before he could remove his ring attire, Honky discovered he was being pummeled with stiff rights. These blows had Honky back-peddling from the opening bell, but he gathered his senses as the matchup continued. After barring Jake's arm, Honky went on to pin Roberts with the use of the ropes. Fuming, Jake and rock star Alice Cooper took revenge by throwing Damian on the Colonel. Fans were aghast when Hercules crashed his chain down on Billy Jack Haynes.

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS

VS

HONKY TONK MAN

Speaking of mortal enemies, Jake "The Snake" Roberts and the Honky Tonk Man still despise one another because of their matchup at *WrestleMania III.* Accompanied to the ring by shock-rock legend Alice Cooper, Jake was looking for revenge. His match with Honky was signed after Honky cracked a guitar over Roberts' skull. Honky, whose mentor Colonel Jimmy Hart vowed that his man would prevail at the Snake's expense, taunted Jake and his unorthodox companion. As soon as the bell rang, however, the talk came to an abrupt end.

Boiling over, Roberts laced into the Elvis impersonator with shuddering force, stinging him with punches before he even had a chance to disrobe. After recovering from the brutal attack, Honky peppered the Snake with shots of his own before pinning Roberts with the help of the ropes. The massive crowd on hand was shocked because Honky was the clear underdog going into *WrestleMania III.* But Jake was compensated for his loss to the pompadoured Memphis bad boy when he and Alice took revenge by throwing Jake's enormous python, Damian, onto the wilted frame of Jimmy Hart, who— apparently overwhelmed by fear—collapsed to the mat.

THE KILLER BEES

VS

NIKOLAI VOLKOFF & THE IRON SHEIK

The tag team collision between the Killer Bees—B. Brian Blair and Jumpin' Jim Brunzell—and Nikolai Volkoff and the Iron Sheik was a seesaw war of ring smarts against no-nonsense brawling. The Bees stung their larger, more aggressive opponents with high-flying dropkicks, elbows and hip tosses. The tide shifted, however, and the Sheik and Volkoff clawed at the Bees. The Sheik trapped Brunzell in the dreaded camel clutch. Just when it seemed that Jim was done for, Hacksaw Jim Duggan exploded into the Silverdome, two-by-four in hand and ready to go. A new arrival in the World Wrestling Federation in 1987, Duggan knew that the Sheik and Volkoff hated America. So the big patriot from Glens Falls, New York, brought his justice stick down across the Sheik's back. However, this act of good will cost the Bees the match—they were disqualified for Hacksaw's outside interference.

BILLY JACK HAYNES

VS

HERCULES

In one of *WrestleMania III's* earlier bouts, Hercules, managed by Bobby Heenan, went up against Billy Jack Haynes, a tough-as-nails Oregonian. These two marbled matmen clashed with one another as if there were no tomorrow. Both athletes ripped into each other with jarring clotheslines and kneelifts, until the ac-

Another six-man tag team match saw Hillbilly Jim hook up with Little Beaver and the Haiti Kid. They went against Bundy and Lord Littlebrook and Little Tokyo. Hillbilly's team took a lead when Jim scored with an elbow to Bundy's chest. Then the midgets got into it, and Beaver and the Kid had their adversaries in quite a predicament when they wishboned Tokyo's and Littlebrook's legs. Not long after this, Bundy big-splashed Beaver, thus earning himself and his men a disqualification.

tion spilled outside the ring, earning them both a double count-out. Hercules, however, wanted to humiliate Haynes in the worst way, so the man who claims that he's a Greek god wrapped his 15-foot-long steel chain around his fist and crashed it into Billy Jack's head, wounding him severely. As Jesse "The Body" Ventura pointed out to the television audience, "Billy Jack Haynes might've won the battle, but Hercules won the war."

HILLBILLY JIM, HAITI KID & LITTLE BEAVER

VS

KING KONG BUNDY, LITTLE TOKYO & LORD LITTLEBROOK

That same quote would apply to another matchup. For the first time in the history of *WrestleMania*, there was a six-man tag team bout with full-sized and midget wrestlers on each squad. In one corner, Mud Lick, Kentucky's famous son, Hillbilly Jim, joined forces with midgets—that's right, midgets!— the Haiti Kid and Little Beaver. Opposing them was the team of huge King Kong Bundy, who was referred to as the "walking condominium," and Little Tokyo along with the nimble Lord Littlebrook. The rules stated, however, that if a midget was tagged in, the big man in the ring would have to tag out, which would have kept the match fair and square.

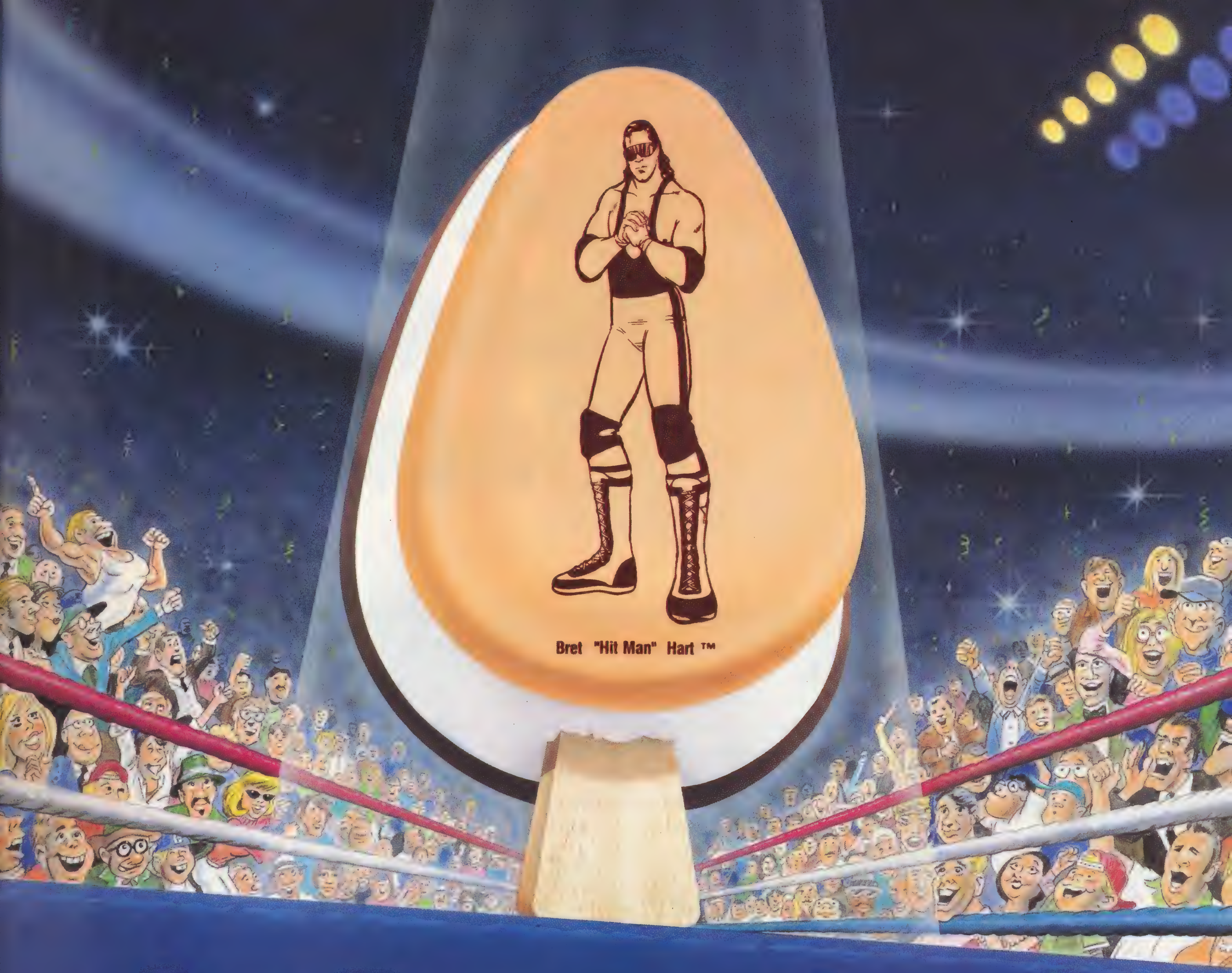
Not so. As the teams battled, Little Beaver continually called on Bundy to fight. A vicious man, the bald gargantuan wanted to take up the little guy's threats. Then, after a melee, Bundy maliciously big-splashed Little Beaver as Hillbilly lay groggy in the corner, thanks to an earlier Bundy avalanche. This attack on the midget star was so appalling that even King Kong's own teammates turned on him. Rightly, Bundy's team was disqualified for his uncalled-for actions.

THE CAN-AM CONNECTION

VS

MAGNIFICENT MURACO & COWBOY BOB ORTON

With Aretha Franklin's rendition of *America the Beautiful* still echoing throughout the Silverdome, manager Mr. Fuji stood side-by-side with his unruly duo of Cowboy Bob Orton and Magnificent Muraco. The two wrestlers looked primed and ready to meet the challenge ahead of them in the well-chiseled forms of Rick Martel and Tom Zenk, the Can-Am Connection—a duo many ring observers considered to be one of the most technically proficient tandems around. Conversely, Orton and Muraco were rated as among the most ruthless and underhanded. True to form, they lived up to their reputation by attacking the two young athletes with a vengeance from the onset of the bout. The battle shifted back and forth throughout the contest, finally ending when Martel cross-bodyblocked Muraco to gain the pinfall.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Three Times The Action At Three Different Arenas

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO

After the phenomenal success of the first *WrestleMania,* skeptics claimed that the WWF could never put on a show as spectacular. On April 7, 1986, the skeptics were proved wrong. *WrestleMania 2* was a high-tech extravaganza, with matches originating from arenas in three separate time zones and the action carried to all the venues via satellite. At New York's Nassau Coliseum, Mr. T bested Rowdy Roddy Piper via disqualification in a special boxing match. At the Rosemont Horizon in Chicago, Andre the Giant added to his legendary invincibility by coming out on top in a 20-man over-the-top-rope battle royal that included six National Football League stars. And in the main event at the Los Angeles Sports Arena, WWF Champion Hulk Hogan emerged victorious from a vicious cage match against dangerous King Kong Bundy.

Like the first *WrestleMania,* this event had no shortage of celebrities. Guest announcers included actress Susan Saint James in New York, Cathy Lee Crosby in Chicago and horror queen Elvira in Los Angeles.

Comedienne Joan Rivers took on ring announcing duties at the Nassau Coliseum with LA Dodgers baseball manager Tommy Lasorda doing the same at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. Among the judges for the boxing match were basketball's Darryl Dawkins, jazz legend Cab Calloway and blues great Ray Charles, who also opened the evening with his stirring rendition of *America the Beautiful.* Rock wildman Ozzy Osbourne seconded the British Bulldogs in their quest for the WWF Tag Team Title. Television personality Ricky Schroeder was the timekeeper, and tough guy actor Robert Conrad was guest referee for Hogan's title defense.

But when the matches began, the attention of the fans quickly became riveted on the combat in the squared circle. The 11 bouts presented left spectators breathless.

At the Los Angeles Sports Arena, the Hulkster battled the huge King Kong Bundy inside a steel cage. Although the champion suffered from cracked ribs due to a Bundy sneak-attack several weeks earlier, Hogan was at his best and wrestled ferociously, lacing hard chops into the big man's pectoral region. However, Bundy came back and unceremoniously dropped an agonized Hulkster to the canvas.

HULK HOGAN

VS

KING KONG BUNDY

FOR THE WWF CHAMPIONSHIP

More than the WWF championship was on the line in this cage match. A short time before *WrestleMania 2,* the 450-pound Bundy had severely injured Hogan's ribs by sneak-attacking him during a title defense. Although doctors advised the titlist to wait until his ribs healed, Hulk insisted on gaining revenge against his huge adversary at *WrestleMania 2* to restore the pride lost in the attack.

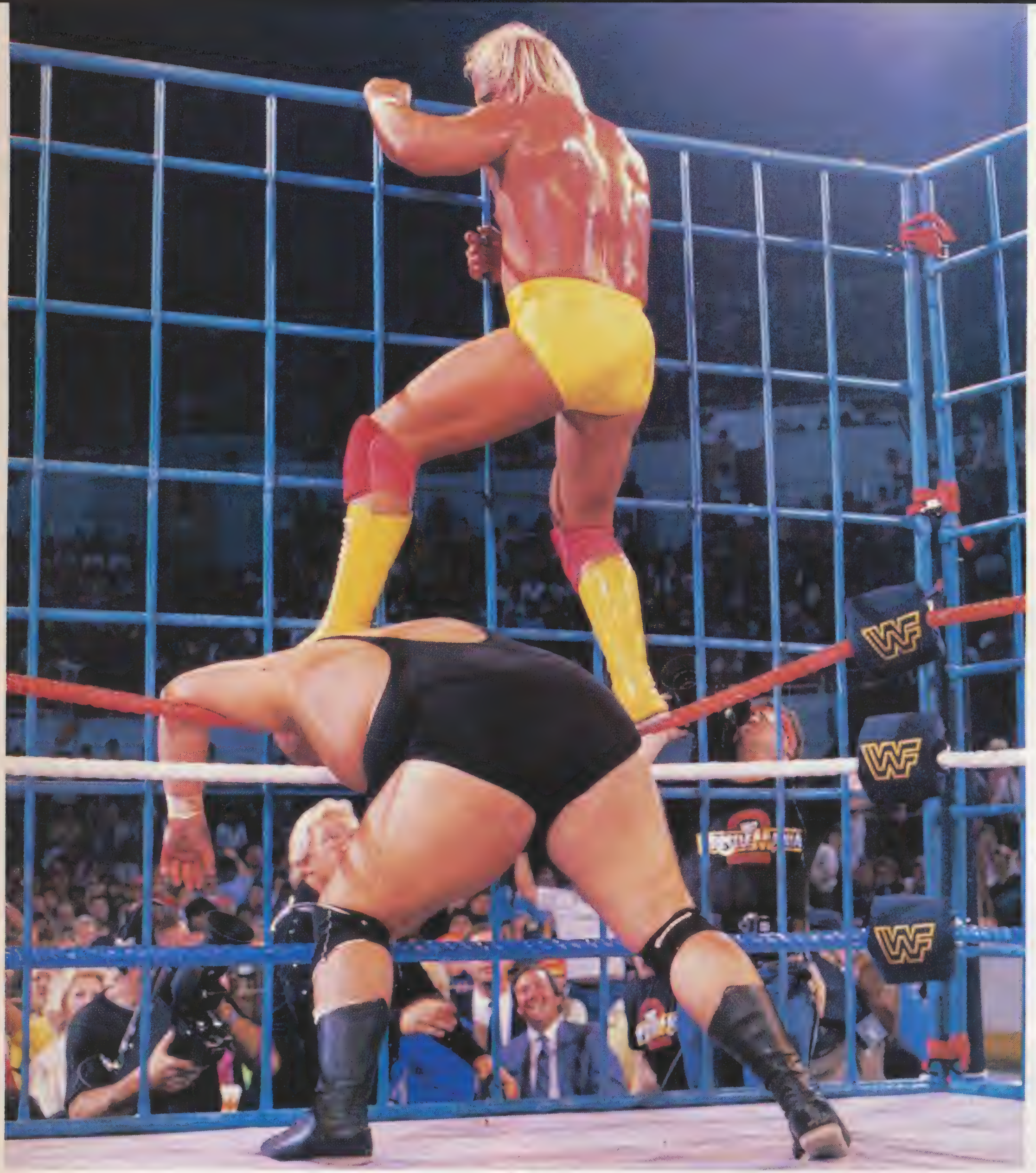
The eye of the tiger was definitely with the champion as he entered the ring by climbing the cage. However, the tape around his ribs was proof that Hulk was not in top form, and he had to get a fast start to prevent his devious foe from exploiting the handicap.

With Bundy's manager, Bobby "The

Brain" Heenan, howling in protest from his spot at ringside, Hogan took a quick lead, rocking Bundy with a barrage of rights, delivering knife-edged chops across the neck, then bouncing him off the ropes and planting a big foot in the bald menace's face. Afraid of an embarrassing early defeat, Bundy tried to scale the cage and flee. But the Hulkster was right behind him—and in no mood to show mercy. He choked Bundy with the strap of his one-piece wrestling outfit and mashed his head into the cage.

Now Bundy was angry, and he lashed out at the champion viciously, focusing on Hogan's aching ribs. He threw shots to the injured area and bodyslammed the Hulkster. Hulk groaned in agony as Bundy turned up the pain meter, stepping on the champion's head and rubbing his face into the mat. King Kong signaled for the door of the steel cage to be opened and attempted to pass through it. But the survival instinct in Hogan took over, and—pain notwithstanding—he crawled across the canvas after Bundy, gripped him by the leg and pulled him back toward the center of the ring.

Surprised and angry, Bundy set out to further injure the titlist. King Kong lifted Hogan and tossed him against the cage's hard metal bars, unwrapped the tape around the Hulkster's ribs and choked him with it. Again Bundy headed for the door, this time sticking his hands through the entrance and locking them with those of Heenan, who tried yanking his protégé onto the arena floor. At the

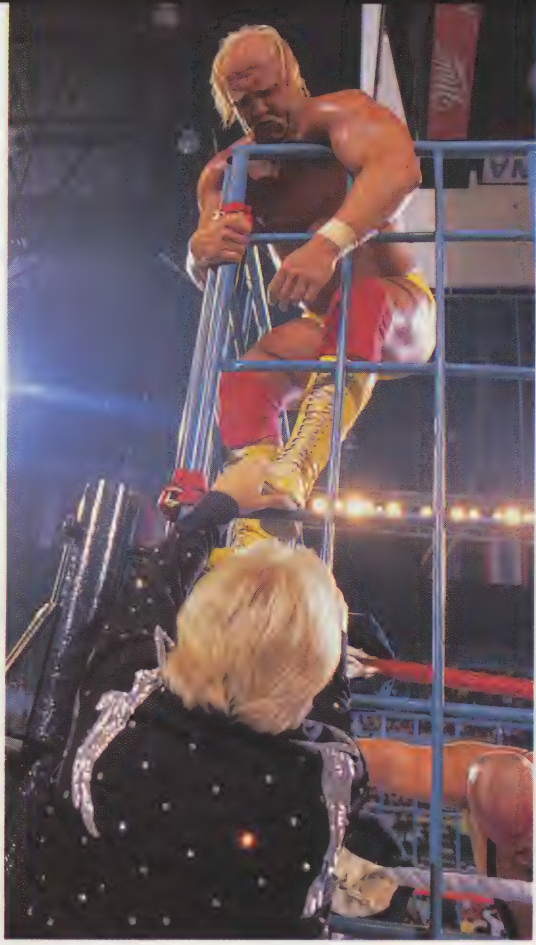


last moment, Hogan managed to drag his opponent back between the ropes.

Hogan began to fight his way back into the match. He whipped Bundy into the corner and followed with a fast elbow to the facial area. Seething with rage, the champion slammed his foe into the bars, opening him up and pounding on the wound. Showing that he too understood the ways of torture, Hogan draped Bundy's neck over the top rope, climbed the cage and pressed a foot down on the big man's head.

However, Hogan failed to consider the extent of his injuries when he picked up Bundy for a bodyslam. The Hulkster's back gave out under the enormous weight, and Bundy tum-

Susan Saint James, Ray Charles, Cathy Lee Crosby and Tommy Lasorda turned out to witness *WrestleMania 2*, which featured the main event between Hulk and Bundy in a steel cage. Hogan wrestled stoutheartedly, preventing King Kong from escaping and firing rights into his face. Then Hulk escalated the momentum by stepping on Bundy's throat and choking him.



After winning the match, Hulk abused Heenan before walking out of the cage with the gold intact.

bled on top of the champion. With his manager encouraging him to make a rapid retreat, Bundy moved toward the door. Hogan was able to catch up with him, lassooing the rib tape around Bundy's neck and then choking him with it.

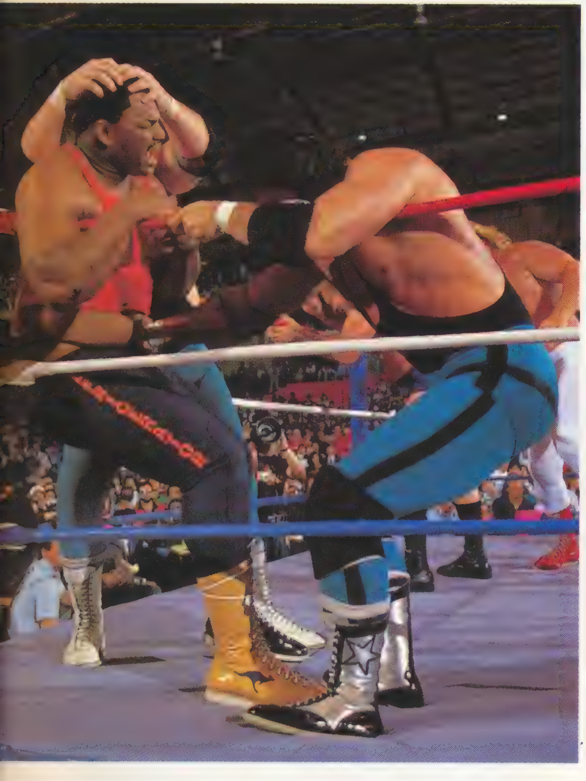
Slashing his fingers across Hulk's face, King Kong forced the titlist to release his grip and decided to punish him with the move responsible for the rib injuries: the avalanche. As the Hulkamaniacs at the Los Angeles Sports Arena gasped in horror, Bundy crushed the Hulkster against the turnbuckle. However, when King Kong tried to maneuver again, Hogan—psyched by the encouraging shouts of his admirers—stiffened his body and weathered the blow.

The Hulkamaniacs had convinced the champion that he couldn't lose. He went after Bundy with a vengeance, whipping him into the buckles and scoop-slamming him as he ricocheted back toward center ring. Bouncing off the ropes, the champion smashed a fallen Bundy with a patented legdrop, then tried to climb out of the cage. Bundy forced himself off the mat and attempted to pull the titlist down. But Hogan was full of energy and easily kicked his weakened foe away. As the champion straddled the top of the cage, Heenan scaled the bars from outside in an effort to block Hogan's departure. Hulk knocked the manager out of his way, touched down on the arena floor and won the title defense.

One matter, however, remained unresolved: Bobby Heenan's assistance to his protégé during the injurious assault on the champion. Hoping to teach the manager about the penalties for meddling, Hogan chased Heenan around ringside and then into the cage. Cornering the stammering manager, Hogan tossed him against the bars and jarred his spine with an atomic drop. When the manager bounced off Hogan's knee and out the door of the steel cage, the champion was ready to consider his job finished for that day.

BATTLE ROYAL

Football players Jim Covert, Harvey Martin, Ernie Holmes, Bill Fralic, Russ Francis and 304-pound William "Refrigerator" Perry tried to muscle their way to wrestling stardom against 14 of the WWF's top standouts, including Hillbilly Jim; Haku; the Hart Foundation; former WWF Champions Pedro Morales, Bruno Sammartino and the Iron Sheik; and the "king of the battle royal" Andre the Giant. Chicago Bears football immor-



At the Rosemont Horizon outside of Chicago, WWF superstars and NFL athletes collided in a battle royal. Throughout the match, the Hart Foundation double-teamed William "Refrigerator" Perry, and then Jim Neidhart went on to test the skills of the Giant.

tal Dick Butkus and Dallas Cowboys defensive end Ed "Too Tall" Jones were the guest referees for this bout, which was a dream come true for fans who questioned "Who's tougher—football players or wrestlers?"

Although a battle royal is always a chaotic affair with little advance planning by participants, the strategy of most of the competitors in this match seemed to be: vanquish the two favorites, Andre and the Refrigerator. From the opening bell, Perry was mobbed by about a half-dozen wrestlers, who took him off his feet in the corner and tried to hoist him over the top rope. Only a charge into the group by Perry's Chicago Bears teammate Jim Covert prevented the Refrigerator's early elimination. Covert, however, did not realize the consequences of this action. He was quickly clutched by Haku, and together they tangled over the top rope and onto the arena floor. Andre, in the meantime, started off defensively, focusing on 1985 Rookie of the Year Bill Fralic, who desperately gripped the top rope to avoid a trip to the showers. The Atlanta Falcon was finally saved by the Hart Foundation, who jumped Andre, hoping to gain the edge on him while he was distracted by Fralic.

The Foundation and Fralic remained a unit for a while, next shifting their energies to Perry. While Foundation components Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart pummeled the Refrigerator, Fralic contributed to the cause with a knee to the spine. But when Perry began fighting back, throwing a forearm at Neidhart, Fralic backed off, engaging in a tussle with Big John Studd and the Iron Sheik. The two WWF stars, boasting years of experience in battle royals, seemed amused by the footballer's spunk but nonetheless dumped him onto the arena floor.

The Hart Foundation regrouped, going after Perry another time. They floored him with a double-hiptoss, but the Refrigerator bounced off the mat, shoulderblocking both Neidhart and Hart simultaneously and knocking them to the canvas.

His confidence soaring, Perry delivered a flying tackle to Studd. More surprised than hurt by the move, Studd backed up and prepared himself for a repeat of the same maneuver. When Perry charged him, Studd returned a shoulderblock, followed by a hiptoss over the top rope. The Refrigerator bounced off the arena floor and, wishing to avenge his elimination before heading back to the locker room, reached up to offer Studd his hand. When Studd naively accepted the Refrigerator's hand, he was yanked over the ropes to ringside.

After more intense action, the contest boiled down to Andre, the Hart Foundation and the most qualified of all the football players, Russ Francis, a three-time Pro Bowl selection whose father, Ed Francis, had been a wrestling star. The Foundation double-dropkicked Andre, then attempted to pounce on the San Francisco 49er, who used his wrestling training to slide under their outstretched hands. As slick as Francis was, however, he could only avoid the future tag team champions for so long. When Hart and Neid-

The battle royal boiled down to Andre the Giant and the Foundation—Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart. Like lions, the Harts pounced on Andre, striking him every which way. However, Andre held his ground and, after clutching Neidhart by his goatee, disposed of him. This left only Hart and Andre in the ring. The Giant tossed Bret to the floor shortly thereafter. At *WrestleMania 2*, Andre the Giant was once again declared the king of the battle royal.

hart finally cornered him, he was easily eliminated from the battle royal.

Showing tremendous courage, the Foundation now went full-throttle at the 7-foot-4-inch Giant. The Anvil held Andre in a headlock, while Hit Man delivered punches to the ribs. The battering caused the Giant to slump in the corner, and the Foundation backed up to apply a high-momentum teamwork maneuver. Bret whipped the stout Anvil across the ring into the Giant's midsection. Believing that the Giant was sufficiently weakened, Hart and Neidhart each grabbed a leg and tried casting their foe from the squared circle. Andre kicked both away and immediately went on the offensive.

After banging the partners' heads together, Andre slung the Anvil into the ropes and on the rebound knocked him out of the ring with a 21-inch foot. Fighting until the last second, Hart scaled the ropes, planning to leap down on the Giant. But Andre grabbed Hit Man, held him high in the air and hurled him into the Anvil at ringside.

A victorious Andre left the match convinced he was the toughest man in sports—an attitude that would lead to his challenging Hulk Hogan for the championship one year later at *WrestleMania III*.

MR. T

VS

ROWDY RODDY PIPER

SPECIAL BOXING MATCH

Both men came to the fight well-prepared. Piper was coached by former Olympic Boxing Coach Lou Duva while T's adviser for this match was ex-Heavyweight Boxing Champion Smokin' Joe Frazier.

After feeling each other out in the first round, both combatants got bold. During the rest period before the second round, Piper walked across the ring and taunted his opponent. When the bell rang, the Rowdy Scot followed up his words with actions. He doubled over the former bodyguard with an uppercut and bashed him with a series of roundhouse rights. As the assault continued, T's knees buckled, and he fell. Although most watchers believed the movie and television star was down for the count, the determined T rose to his feet on the count of eight and mounted a comeback. In round three, Piper was literally lifted off the canvas with a number of body shots. As Smokin' Joe hollered instructions, T used lefts and rights to knock Piper down. At the count of eight, he got off the mat, only to be whacked through the ropes with a wild left.

Round four saw both men go at each other roundhouse for roundhouse. Each was wobbly but refused to fall. Even when Piper delivered a mighty shot that knocked out T's mouthpiece, Mr. T fought on, trapping his adversary in a corner. Referee Jack Lotz squeezed between the battlers to separate them, but his efforts were futile. A frustrated Piper shoved the official down to the mat and viciously bodyslammed his opponent. Seconds poured into the ring to restore order, and Duva and Frazier wound up tugging on each other at one point.

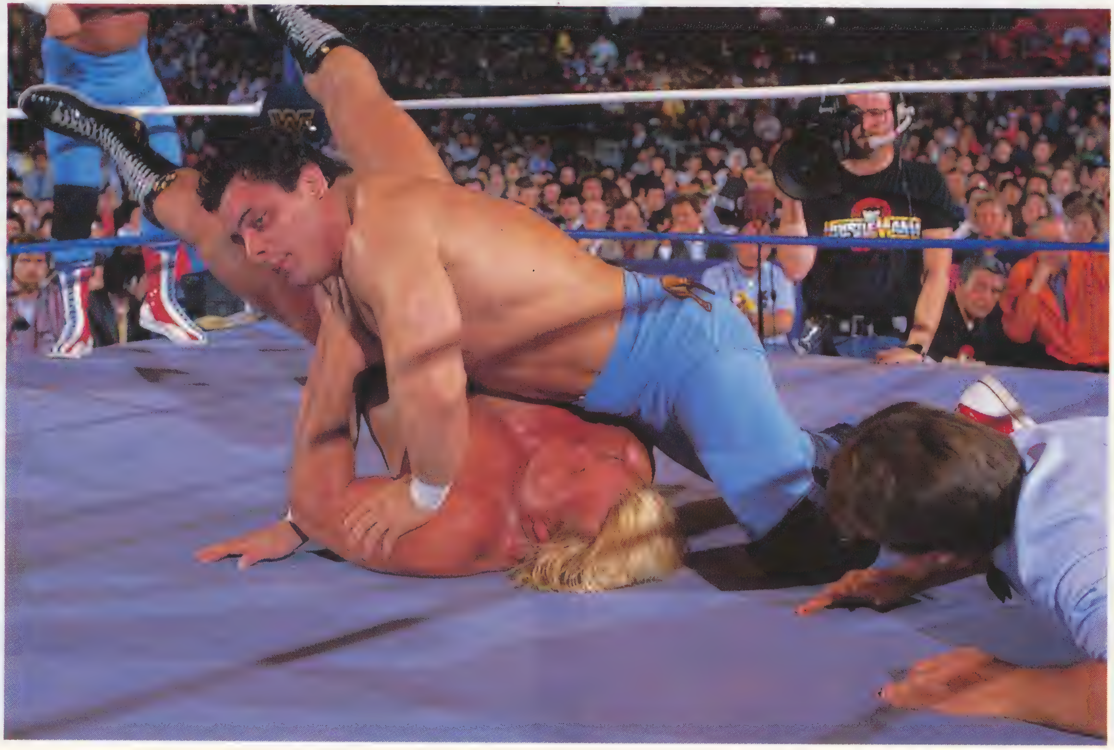
The referee finally raised T's hand, award-

HOT
EVERLAST

At Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, New York, Piper and Mr. T squared off in a *WrestleMania* boxing match. The action in this contest of pugilism was hot and heavy. Midway through the bout, Piper nailed T with a right cross and then followed up with a right hook. However, Piper lost his cool and, in the middle of the match, he resorted to wrestling by slamming Mr. T. Thus, the Rowdy One was disqualified.

EVERLAST
EVERLAST
EVERLAST

WrestleMania 2 saw the tag team belts change hands for the second straight year. Champions Greg "The Hammer" Valentine and Brutus Beefcake, the Dream Team, were upended by the British Bulldogs, Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid. For most of the match, however, the Dream Team was in control, as the Hammer headlocked and then hiptossed Smith. When Brutus Beefcake tagged in, he went to work on Davey Boy's arms.



ing him the bout via disqualification, but Piper was intent on getting in his own two cents worth. He slugged the victor after the decision was announced, then left the ring with arms raised.

GREG "THE HAMMER" VALENTINE & BRUTUS "THE BARBER" BEEFCAKE

VS

THE BRITISH BULLDOGS

FOR THE WWF TAG TEAM TITLE

Because outside interference in the past had aided Valentine and Beefcake—the original Dream Team—in keeping their tag team championship, two referees were assigned to this match. The Bulldogs—Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith—also brought their countryman, rocker Ozzy Osbourne, for moral support.

Some feel Valentine defeated himself in this bout, since he had Smith pinned after executing a shoulderbreaker but pulled up Davey Boy's shoulder at the count of two to mete out more punishment. Meanwhile, Dynamite Kid perched on the turnbuckles to shout encouragement. When Valentine placed his rival in the headlock, Smith shoved him into the corner, causing him to bang heads with Dynamite. Kid fell backward onto the arena floor, and Valentine collapsed in the ring where he was pinned for the title change.

PAUL "MR. WONDERFUL" ORNDORFF

VS

MAGNIFICENT MURACO

The two powerhouses began the match by exchanging classic wrestling moves—armdrags, wristlocks, legdrops and bodyslams. But the bout quickly turned into a brawl, with Muraco gripping his foe around the waist and tumbling over the top rope onto the arena floor. Muraco then tried to finish off Orndorff by running him into the ring post. Orndorff put on the brakes and used his opponent's momentum to send him into the steel support. Eventually, the bell rang, and both wrestlers were counted out.

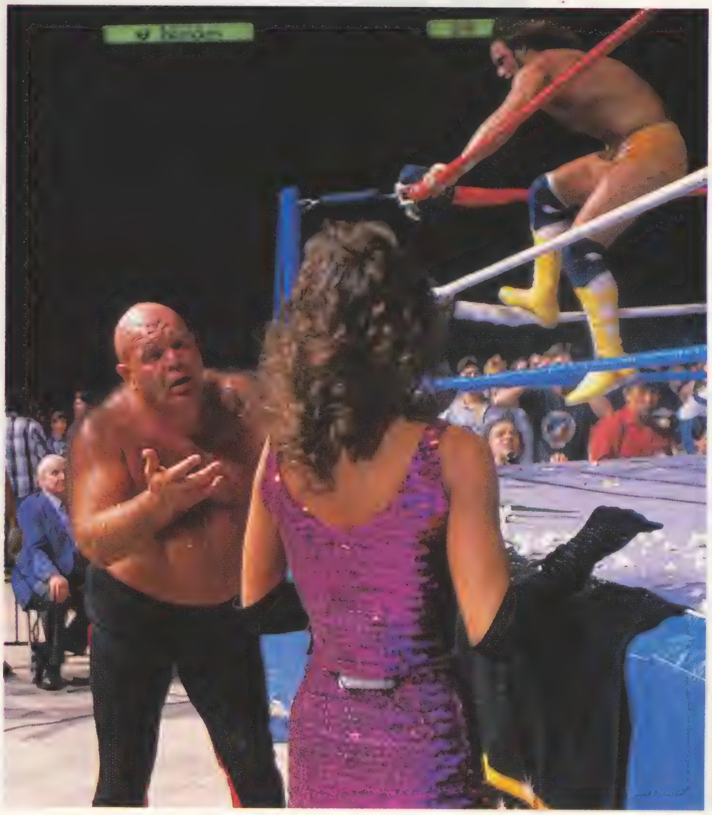
MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE

VS

GEORGE "THE ANIMAL" STEELE

FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

Savage brought a patented weapon to his Intercontinental Title defense: manager Miss



Other matches at *WrestleMania 2* featured Macho Man Randy Savage battling George "The Animal" Steele. Jake "The Snake" Roberts used his DDT to finish off the former football star George Wells. Wells also felt Damian slither over his body, thanks to Roberts. Also, Nikolai Volkoff, the hated Russian, warred with Corporal Kirchner, the former American military man.

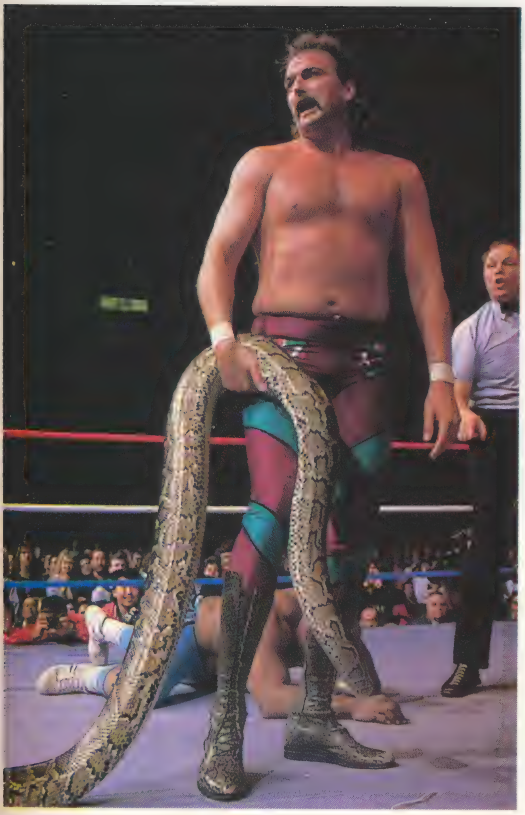
Elizabeth, of whom the primitive Steele was enamored. Several times during the match, Steele was distracted by the manager's beauty, allowing Savage to take the lead. However, the powerful Animal continually fought back, not allowing Macho Man to rebound all the way to victory. Finally, Savage resorted to twisting the rules, tackling a charging Steele and using the ropes for leverage as the referee counted the pinfall.

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS

VS

GEORGE WELLS

A relative newcomer to the WWF, Roberts wanted to use *WrestleMania 2* as a forum to showcase his dangerous DDT and pet python, Damian. Wells vowed to spoil the show. He started off fast, dazing Jake with punches, forearms, a back-bodydrop and powerslam. Roberts responded by raking his fingers across his foe's face and engaging him in a chase around the ringside area. As Wells pursued Jake into the ring, he was met with a kneelift, followed by a lightning-quick DDT. After the pin, Jake delighted the audience by releasing the slithering snake onto his opponent's unconscious body.



FABULOUS MOOLAH

VS

VELVET McINTYRE

FOR THE WWF WOMEN'S TITLE

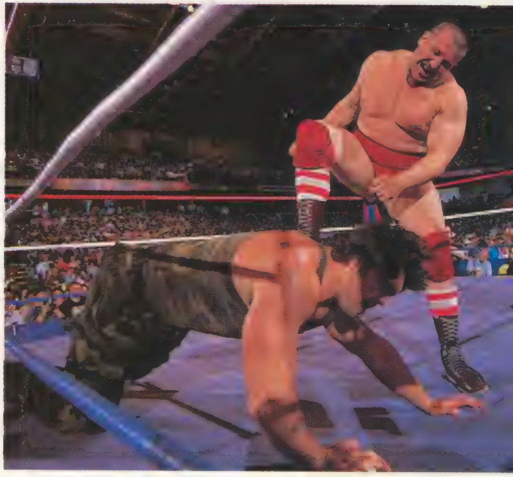
Moolah, the WWF Women's Champion, was looking for a quick title defense, tossing her blond challenger to the mat early in the bout by grabbing her by the hair and snapmaring her. However, Velvet McIntyre returned with dropkicks, elbows and a bodyslam. Overconfident, the contender decided to try a splash, which Moolah avoided before tying up her injured foe up for a pin.

CORPORAL KIRCHNER

VS

NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

Volkoff, the Soviet strongman, worked over his patriotic opponent outside the ring, ramming Kirchner's head into the ring post. Kirchner took the battle back into the ring, stinging Volkoff with lefts and rights. Sensing danger, Volkoff's manager, Freddie Blassie, tossed his cane to his protégé. Kirchner intercepted it in midair, smashed Volkoff with it, pinned him and then—as the fans chanted, "USA, USA"—waved the American flag.



A newcomer at the time, the mighty, muscular Hercules went one-on-one with martial arts expert and scientific purist Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat. In another tag team match, the Funk Brothers, Terry and Hoss, managed by Jimmy Hart, went up against the combination of the tough-as-leather Junk Yard Dog and the dynamic Tito Santana.

RICKY "THE DRAGON" STEAMBOAT

VS

HERCULES

The powerful Hercules jumped the speedy Ricky Steamboat at the start of the match in the hope of gaining a win through brute force. But Steamboat used his finesse to stage a comeback, ducking under a clothesline, bouncing off the ropes and sliding under Hercules' outstretched legs. He then executed a clothesline of his own. Even when Hercules thought he had regained control, Steamboat surprised him with acrobatics, somersaulting out of a side suplex attempt and delivering a fierce karate kick. Using punches and kicks, Hercules fought back, squeezing Steamboat in a crunching bearhug and dropping him—neck-first—across the top rope. However, when Hercules tried to follow up a powerslam with a splash, Steamboat bent his knees right into his adversary's midsection, climbed the ropes and soundly defeated the muscleman with a flying bodypress.

UNCLE ELMER

VS

ADORABLE ADRIAN ADONIS

The flamboyant Adrian Adonis came to the ring with his manager, Jimmy Hart, "sanitizing" the arena by spraying perfume. Then the 400-plus-pound, overall-wearing Uncle Elmer arrived, doing the two-step to the cheers of the crowd. Elmer used his bulk to control Adonis at the match's onset, knocking him out of the ring with a hard punch, slingshotting him back in from the apron and tying him up between the ropes. But Elmer erred when he missed a kneedrop. Adonis capitalized on the flaw, pouncing on Elmer with a flying headbutt and gaining the victory by a pinfall.

TITO SANTANA & JUNK YARD DOG

VS

TERRY & HOSS FUNK

Tito Santana's team battled the Funk Brothers from the opening bell. Junk Yard Dog threw Terry and Hoss into one another and slammed them. Then Santana clotheslined Terry out of the ring and sent Hoss scurrying with a series of dropkicks. However, while running the ropes, Santana was kicked by Terry from the ring apron and subjected to a number of double-team moves. Eventually, Tito struggled back to his corner and tagged his partner, who immediately exploded on the Funks. After headbutting both opponents, Junk Yard Dog backflipped Terry over the top rope and slammed him on a ringside table. When the action returned to the ring, the Funk's manager, Jimmy Hart, loaded the scales in his squad's favor by interfering. He tossed his infamous megaphone to Terry, who—out of the referee's vision—clonked Junk Yard Dog over the head with it. As the groggy Junk Yard Dog fell to the mat, Terry covered him for the three-count.

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WrestleMania Began A Tradition Of Excitement And Glamour

BY ED RICCIUTI

Each of the past seven *WrestleManias* has had its unique sense of excitement and its own particular aura of glamour. Because it began the tradition and never had happened before, however, the first *WrestleMania* was special.

The beginning of the *WrestleMania* legacy occurred March 31, 1985, in New York's Madison Square Garden. This initial spectacular became the largest event ever seen on closed-circuit television and was viewed by a great many other fans through the then-new technology of pay-per-view television, which since has been pioneered by the WWF Television Network.

The first *WrestleMania* was a day of explosive surprises, valor, victory and, for some of the participants, bitter defeat.

HULK HOGAN & MR. T

VS

ROWDY RODDY PIPER & PAUL “MR. WONDERFUL” ORNDORFF

Perhaps no wrestling match before had drawn so much advance attention as the key match on the card, pitting WWF Champion Hulk Hogan and Mr. T, star of *The A Team* and Clubber Lang in *Rocky III*, against Rowdy Roddy Piper and Paul “Mr. Wonderful” Orndorff. The cornerman for the Hulk-T team was Superfly Jimmy Snuka, one of the most formidable men in the World Wrestling Federation. For the opponents, it was Cowboy Bob Orton, deadly as a Gila monster.

By their words and deeds in the months prior to the event, Piper and Orndorff had goaded the Hulkster and Mr. T to the point at which, to satisfy both honor and justice, they had to crush their antagonists before the eyes of the world. What better place to do it than at *WrestleMania*?

The excitement of the match began even before the bell rang. Then-New York Yankees manager the late Billy Martin served as a guest ring announcer. The late Liberace was the timekeeper. Muhammad Ali was there as a special referee to enforce the rules, while a second referee, Pat Patterson, officiated.

It was viewed as the ultimate grudge match. From the beginning, it was hot. Nose-to-nose, Piper and T slapped one another. Then they grappled. Piper used his years of ring experience to ride down T, but he, in turn, used his amateur wrestling background to escape by a sit-out.

Seldom has a match been so furious. T grabbed Piper in a fireman's carry and dropped him unceremoniously. Suddenly, both teams were banging it out in the ring. Ali jumped in, tried to separate the brawlers and, when Piper jumped him, knocked the Rowdy One to the cement. Ali, intent on

At the first *WrestleMania*, held at Madison Square Garden in New York City, professional boxing legend Muhammad Ali was appointed special referee in the main event tag team match between World Wrestling Federation Champion Hulk Hogan and Mr. T and Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff and Rowdy Roddy Piper. In the end, Ali raised the Hulkster's hand in victory.

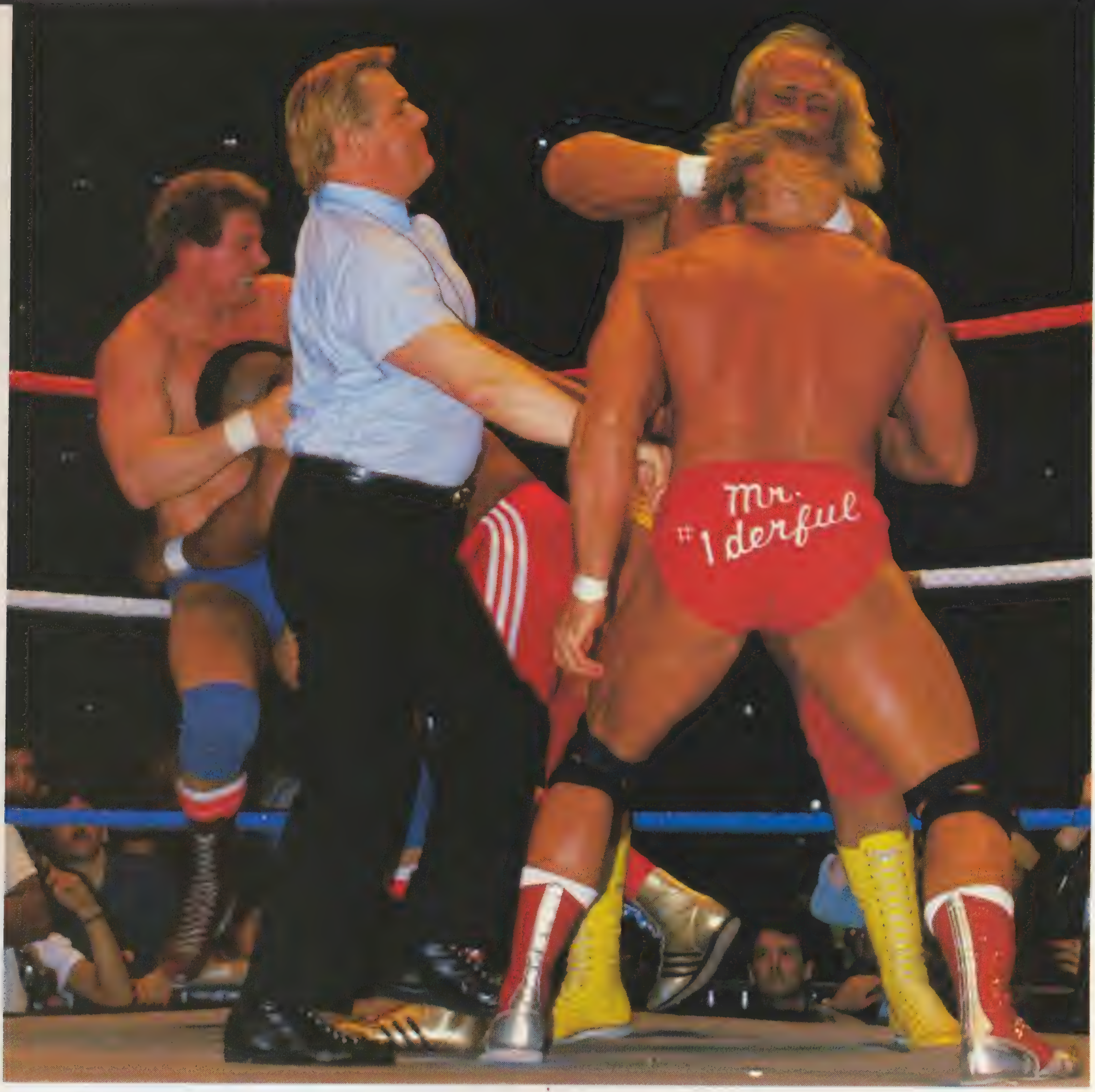
keeping order, chased Orton from the ring.

To the astonishment of the viewers, the Piper-Orndorff camp marched toward the dressing room. Sticking by the rules, Patterson began counting them out. But he was cut short by an angry Hogan who would not accept a victory by count-out. He wanted Piper and Orndorff in hand-to-hand combat.

The battle began in earnest. Hogan atomic-dropped Piper and then sailed into him. Piper was groggy but displayed the resiliency that has kept him in the wrestling limelight. And he also earned a respect, which he has to this day, for the Hulkster.

"I felt Hulk Hogan's power," says Piper. "I felt his courage coming at me. I was lucky. I'm still in the ring today."

He was lucky. Again and again, it was four men battling it out, against the rules and caught up in the fury of the fray. So furious was the action, to viewers it seemed almost as if what happened in the ring was in fast motion. Hogan banged Piper around. T and



Hogan double-whipped and clotheslined Piper. T slammed him. Hogan booted Piper out. Orndorff clotheslined Hulk with an apparent foreign object. The Hulkster hit the cement, and Piper slammed him with a chair. Hogan was double-teamed in a corner. Mr. T tried to help Hogan, but Pat Patterson, desperately trying to avoid mayhem, stopped him. Piper and Orndorff jumped Hogan. Orndorff dropped a knee on the champion.

The Hulkster went down, and Orndorff gave him the most vicious of boots. As the battle raged, Orndorff took command of the Hulkster, elbowing to the neck and lowering a powerful backbreaker.

Hogan, characteristically, fought back. T went in and, in desperation reverting to his native street fighting, threw out the rules. There was a fierce Pearl Harbor and double-team on T. Hulk and Piper went at it.

"I still remember," says the Hulkster, "Rowdy Roddy Piper is one tough dude."

Orndorff jumped into the fray, only to have the Hulkster bang his skull against Piper's. And then Hulk and Orndorff squared off for all the marbles.

Orndorff's face showed that he knew that this was the moment of truth. Hogan's face was ablaze with *Hulkamania.* Crafty, Orndorff worked Hogan into a position for a suplex and then executed it. The impact of this move shook the ring, but it hurt Orndorff almost as much as it hurt Hogan.

The two muscular wrestlers writhed on the canvas. Suddenly, Orton was in the ring. But so was Superfly Jimmy Snuka, who headbutted the big cowboy out.

The squared circle erupted into chaos as everybody brawled. Piper decided the moment was opportune to once more go into his bag of tricks and distract the referee. As the Hulkster struggled with Orndorff, pitting

Before the match, Hulk, Mr. T and Superfly Jimmy Snuka, who was assigned to their corner, discussed strategy. When the bell rang, Hogan and Mr. T went on the attack. Piper fell victim to a Mr. T backbodydrop, which knocked the wind out of the explosive Scot. From there, a four-man brawl enveloped this classic struggle, with the Hulkster battling Orndorff and Mr. T going at it with Hot Rod.

Above: The Hulkster, overflowing with rage, mauls the Rowdy One. The end came for Orndorff's team when Cowboy Bob Orton, who had been in Hot Rod and Mr. Wonderful's corner, illegally leapt off the top rope and accidentally crashed his plaster of Paris cast down across Orndorff's brow. This knocked Mr. Wonderful unconscious, allowing a pin by the Hulkster, center.

power against power, Orton again entered the ring. On his forearm was a plaster cast that Orton claimed was there as a result of an injury, but which he had used repeatedly as a weapon against ring opponents. His eyes brimming with hatred of the Hulkster, Orton raised the encased arm and prepared to smash it down on the champion. With lightning-quick reflexes, Hogan moved out of the way, escaping the blow. To the delight of Hulkamaniacs everywhere, the chickens came home to roost. Orndorff took the full impact of the cast, driven home by Orton with all his considerable power.

Bye-bye, Wonderful. Pin by Hogan. It was over and done with.

ANDRE THE GIANT

VS

BIG JOHN STUDD

Andre the Giant. The name spreads fear throughout the WWF. Andre is the giant, and he proved it against Big John Studd in a *WrestleMania* match to settle who was the true giant of the World Wrestling Federation. Andre had vowed to bodyslam the 380-pound Studd or retire from wrestling forever. If the Giant did make good on his promise, Studd would have to pay him $15,000.

Studd was managed by Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. Some say that it was at *WrestleMania* that Heenan first spotted a strain of ruthlessness in Andre and decided that, ultimately, the Giant should be brought into the Heenan wrestling family—which, of course, came to pass.

Whether or not the story about Heenan is true, Andre demonstrated that he is an im-

placable foe and totally without mercy when it comes to attaining victory.

Although Studd occasionally rallied, Andre had him from the beginning. He boxed Studd into a corner, pounded him, then made his ribs ache with a colossal bearhug. Studd fought out but was obviously weakened. Desperately, he tried to kick the Giant, but Andre grabbed his foot.

A fearsome look appeared on Andre's face. A cruel smile crossed his lips. (Observers say that, at that moment, Heenan *knew* he would draw Andre into his camp.)

Knowing he had Studd in his power, Andre punished him with jarring kicks. And then it was over. The huge frame of Big John

The Eighth Wonder of the World, Andre the Giant, battled Big John Studd at *WrestleMania* I, left.

During the match between Andre and Studd, the Giant battled his opponent with stunning force and nearly crushed John's back with a bearhug. However, a submission or pinfall wouldn't count in this *WrestleMania* encounter because the only way a man could be beaten was by a bodyslam. In the end, that's what Andre did to Big John Studd.

Studd was in the arms of Andre the Giant, lifted off the canvas and then slammed there with terrifying power. It was over—the only emotion that could be seen in Andre's eyes was a cold gleam of satisfaction.

TITO SANTANA

VS

THE EXECUTIONER

Satisfaction was also the prize of Tito Santana, but only after a bout against the masked Executioner that took Tito to the limit. Santana quickly showed his agility as he ran the ropes with dazzling speed, then sent the Executioner out of the ring with a dropkick. As soon as the Executioner struggled back between the ropes, Tito clamped on a side-headlock. It was obvious that Santana's strategy was to work on the head and neck of his foe. While holding the Executioner in a headlock, Tito walked up the ropes and dropped his victim with wrenching impact. Santana, sweating with the exertion, continued to apply the pressure with his arms locked around the Executioner's neck. Under the mask, the Executioner's face must have been a picture of agony, but it remained unseen by those in attendance.

Apparently, the Executioner's mind was working overtime. He took the only way out of the powerful arms of Santana, putting a fist into the back of his knee. The Executioner escaped the headlock, but it did him little good. Santana swarmed all over him, slamming his head to the turnbuckle and finally knocking him to the canvas.

Tough as nails, the Executioner came back, kicking Tito and giving him a taste of the turnbuckle. As the action continued, Santana was floored by a knee and was brutally stomped on by his foe.

Then the Executioner's strategy became apparent. Santana's leg had been injured earlier in losing the WWF Intercontinental Title to Greg "The Hammer" Valentine. As soon as the Executioner had Santana at a disadvantage, Tito's leg became a target. However, the Executioner's assault on the limb was short-lived. Tito rolled him over and sent a big boot thudding into his body.

Also, *WrestleMania I* saw Tito Santana take on the Masked Executioner, whom Tito defeated with the figure-four leglock.

Santana was fired up and angry. He tore into the Executioner, rocking him with blows from both fists and feet, then whipped him hard into the buckles. Going for the kill, Santana grabbed the Executioner and set him up for a piledriver, but Santana made the move too quickly and was thrown off-balance. The burly Executioner wrapped his arms around Santana and reversed the piledriver. Tito landed hard on the canvas.

Following up on his success, the Executioner slammed Santana to the mat and then climbed the ropes for an aerial assault. It was a mistake. Santana got to his feet and grasped the Executioner just as he mounted the top rope. With a tremendous heave, Tito tossed his foe halfway across the ring. The Executioner landed in a heap.

Now it was Santana's time to use the ropes—but it backfired because he landed on the Executioner's knees. The tide of the match had turned again, and the Executioner resumed his attack on Tito's leg, dropping it over the ropes.

Again, Santana came back. He kicked at his foe and sent him out of the ring. As the Executioner clambered back in, Tito slammed him, then shattered him with a flying forearm. The match was a moment away from its ending. Using the figure-four leglock, Santana obtained a submission and walked away with a victory.

SPECIAL DELIVERY JONES

VS

KING KONG BUNDY

Quick victory came in nine seconds to the massive King Kong Bundy over Special Delivery Jones in their confrontation. Jones, a tough ring veteran and rugged as they come, tried to start off fast against Bundy, a 450-pound-plus behemoth. As he came off the ropes, "S.D." ran into a Bundy bearhug. The big squeeze was followed by a whip into the corner that put a groggy Jones against the turnbuckles. In the blink of an eye, Bundy powdered Jones with an avalanche. Jones ended up on the mat. Down came Bundy with a pulverizing big splash, and it was over. Jones never had a chance.

In a match for the Intercontinental Championship Title, Champion Greg "The Hammer" Valentine warred with the big Junk Yard Dog— a rough individual if there ever was one in the WWF. Nevertheless, the two titans hit one another with everything but the kitchen sink. As would be expected from the Hammer, he centralized his vicious attack on the Dog's thick legs.

GREG "THE HAMMER" VALENTINE

VS

JUNK YARD DOG

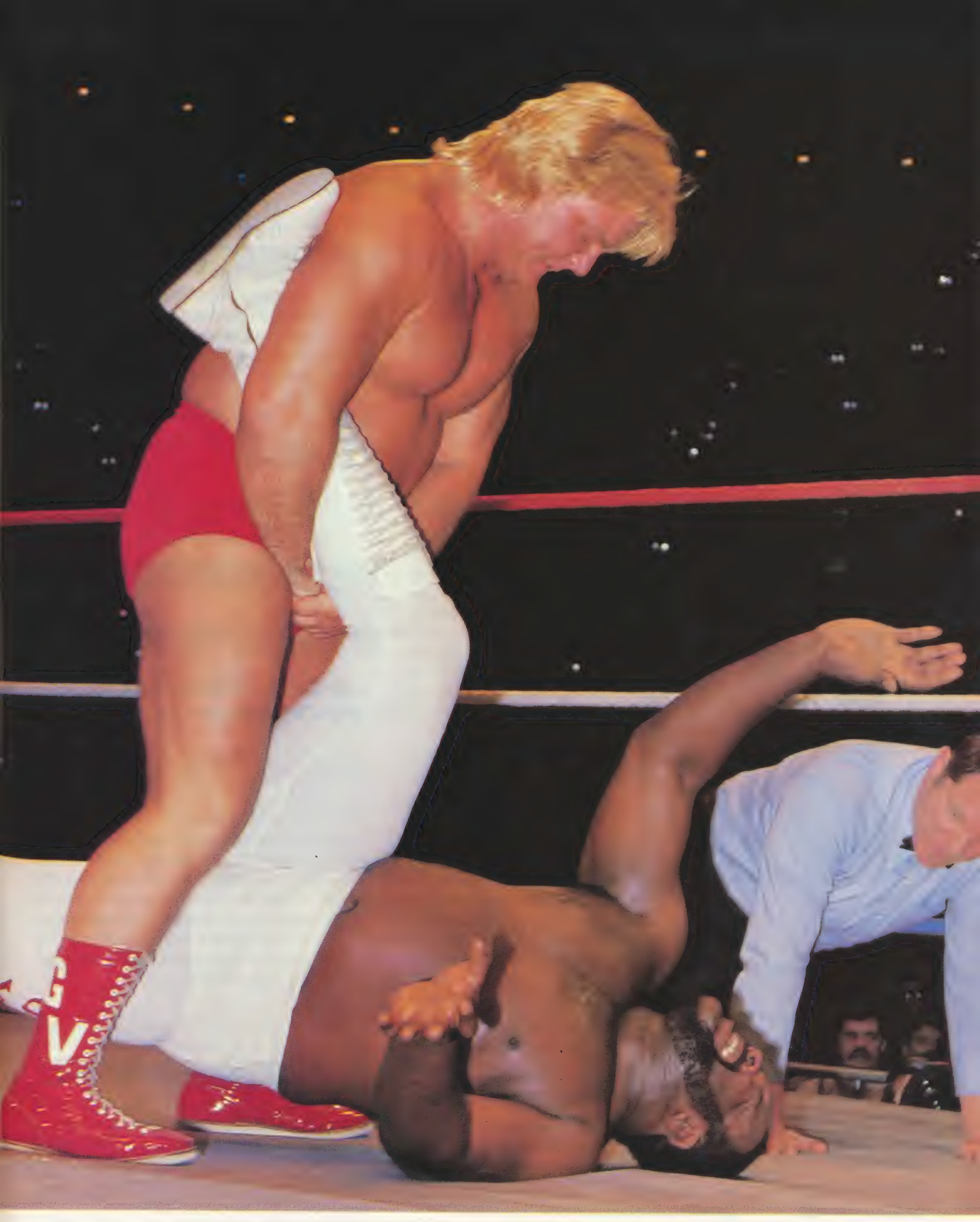
FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

Looking back at the first *WrestleMania*, you can see that, for some people, time doesn't really change things. Greg "The Hammer" Valentine is one of those people, an expert at executing the figure-four leglock and as rugged and remorseless as a pit bull. In this case, the pit bull was pitted against another type of canine, the Junk Yard Dog. The prize was the Intercontinental Championship, held by Valentine. He and the Dog traded fists, kicks, headbutts, stomps—the works. Each time he had the chance, Valentine tried to soften up the Dog and put on the feared figure-four leglock. The Hammer was thwarted, so he changed his tactics—an example of the ring smarts that have made him one of the most dangerous wrestlers in the WWF.

The Hammer brawled. Although the Dog seemed to have the upper hand, it turned out he was set up. Valentine's manager, the yappy Jimmy Hart, jumped onto the ring apron and jabbered at the referee. That act drew the attention of the Dog, who grabbed Jimmy Hart. Seeing Junk Yard Dog's exposed back, Greg Valentine lowered the boom, but Junk Yard ducked and the manager was decked.

This was a minor setback for Valentine. As he and JYD went head-to-head, Valentine eye-raked his opponent, scooped his legs and got the pin—so cleverly using legs on the ropes for leverage that the referee missed the foul.

Triumphant, Valentine and Hart started away from the ring. Enter Tito Santana, at the time Valentine's arch-foe. He had seen the illegal trick, and he convinced the official to resume the match. Resume it he did, and the official counted out Valentine, who was preparing to head for the locker room. Even so, the Hammer had a victory of sorts. The


GV

World Wrestling Federation rules state that titles cannot change hands on count-outs or disqualifications. This was an example of the clever tactics that have made Greg Valentine and Jimmy Hart big winners to this date.

BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO

VS

NIKOLAI VOLKOFF & THE IRON SHEIK

FOR THE WWF TAG TEAM TITLE

When you talk of "big," among the men that come to mind is Nikolai Volkoff, later becoming half of the Bolsheviks. Then, Volkoff was teamed with the Iron Sheik, and the two of them were after the WWF Tag Team Title that was then held by Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo.

The WWF Tag Team Title changed hands at *WrestleMania I* when Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham lost the belts to Nikolai Volkoff and the Iron Sheik, who were managed by Classy Freddie Blassie. It was a great match that pitted scientific finesse against brawling—and the brawlers prevailed.

During the match, Volkoff showed the ability to dish out punishment—and to absorb it as well. He bullied Rotundo, handling him like a child and using power and brawling to offset scientific ring tactics.

Volkoff had a tougher time against the big Windham. Windham's speed trapped Volkoff—something his later opponents would learn to remember—and he was cracked down to the mat by a bulldog.

As Windham went for the pin, the Sheik interfered. Rotundo came in, and a four-man brawl ensued. Bad move, Rotundo. The referee's attention was diverted. While Windham, his back to the ropes, battled Volkoff, a devious plot developed.

The Sheik, on the apron, took manager Blassie's cane and smashed it on Windham's head. Volkoff covered Windham, and the referee, turning from Rotundo, declared Volkoff and the Iron Sheik the new champions.

RICKY STEAMBOAT

VS

MATT BORNE

It was not a championship match, but it was exciting. Up-and-coming Matt Borne used a combination of brawling and solid wrestling skills to offset the martial arts and exciting athleticism of Ricky Steamboat—for a time, at least. In the end, after a slugfest, Steamboat back-suplexed Borne, dropped an elbow and a knee, then climbed to the top rope and bombed into his adversary. Bingo: victory for Steamboat.

LEILANI KAI

VS

WENDI RICHTER

FOR THE WWF WOMEN'S TITLE

In other action Wendi Richter reclaimed the WWF Women's Championship she had lost earlier to Leilani Kai. Theirs was a fast-paced and exciting match in which the bigger Kai tried to overpower Richter, who several times was yanked to the mat by the hair.

Kai pounded Richter throughout the match. When the champion engineered a takedown by working off the ropes, Richter pulled a reverse and notched a win. For Richter and her manager, singer Cyndi Lauper, it was a time of celebration.

Also, Brutus Beefcake and David Sammartino were both disqualified when Johnny V and Bruno Sammartino interfered.

For viewers around the world, the birth of *WrestleMania* was a brand-new adventure. It was high excitement unlike any other they had seen before. *WrestleMania* was on its way to becoming not just an American tradition—but a global event. WF

WrestleMania Results

WRESTLEMANIA

1. Hulk Hogan and Mr. T beat Rowdy Roddy Piper and Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff.
2. Andre the Giant overcame Big John Studd.
3. Tito Santana made the Executioner submit.
4. King Kong Bundy flattened Special Delivery Jones.
5. Greg "The Hammer" Valentine upended Junk Yard Dog.
6. Nikolai Volkoff and Iron Sheik toppled Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham for the Federation Tag Team Title.
7. Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat pinned Matt Borne.
8. Wendi Richter beat Leilani Kai for the World Wrestling Federation Women's Championship.
9. Brutus Beefcake and David Sammartino were both disqualified.

WRESTLEMANIA 2

1. Hulk beat Bundy in a cage match.
2. Andre won a battle royal that included athletes from the NFL.
3. Mr. T beat Piper in a boxing match via a disqualification.
4. British Bulldogs toppled the Dream Team for the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Title.
5. Magnificent Muraco and Orndorff were both counted out.
6. Macho Man Randy Savage defeated George "The Animal" Steele.
7. Jake "The Snake" Roberts wrecked George Wells.
8. Fabulous Moolah beat Velvet McIntyre for the World Wrestling Federation Women's Title.
9. Corporal Kirchner triumphed over Volkoff.
10. Ricky Steamboat beat Hercules.
11. Adrian Adonis pinned Uncle Elmer.
12. The Funk Brothers overcame Santana and the Junk Yard Dog.

WRESTLEMANIA III

1. The Hulkster beat the Giant.
2. Piper crushed Adonis.
3. Steamboat outdid Savage for the Intercontinental Title.
4. The Hart Foundation and Dangerous Danny Davis beat the Bulldogs and Santana.
5. King Harley Race defeated the Junk Yard Dog.
6. The Dream Team beat the Rougeau Brothers.
7. The Natural Butch Reed bested Koko B. Ware.
8. Honky Tonk Man pinned Jake Roberts.
9. Volkoff and Iron Sheik defeated the Killer Bees via disqualification.
10. Hercules and Billy Jack Haynes were both counted out.
11. Hillbilly Jim, Little Beaver and Haiti Kid beat Bundy, Lord Littlebrook and Little Tokyo via disqualification.
12. The Can-Am Connection bested Muraco and Cowboy Bob Orton.

WRESTLEMANIA IV

1. THE TOURNAMENT

First Round
a) The Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase beat Hacksaw Jim Duggan.
b) Savage pinned Butch Reed.
c) Muraco beat Dino Bravo by disqualification.
d) Valentine pinned Steamboat.
e) One Man Gang beat Bam Bam Bigelow by count-out.
f) Jake the Snake and Ravishing Rick Rude wrestled to a draw.
Second Round
g) Hulk and Andre were both disqualified.
h) DiBiase pinned Muraco.
i) One Man Gang had a bye.
Semi-Finals
j) DiBiase had a bye.
k) Savage toppled One Man Gang.
Finals
1) Savage beat DiBiase for the World Wrestling Federation Title.
2) Beefcake beat Honky via disqualification.

3. Demolition defeated Strike Force for the tag team crown.
4. Ultimate Warrior beat Hercules.
5. Bad News Brown won a 20-man battle royal.
6. The Islanders and Bobby "The Brain" Heenan beat the British Bulldogs and Koko B. Ware.

WRESTLEMANIA V

1. Hulk overcame Savage for the World Wrestling Federation Title.
2. Rude beat the Warrior for the Intercontinental Title.
3. Jake the Snake upended the Giant via disqualification.

4. Demolition was victorious over the Powers of Pain and Mr. Fuji.
5. Red Rooster triumphed over Bobby Heenan.
6. Bad News Brown and Duggan were disqualified.
7. The Hart Foundation defeated Honky and Valentine.
8. Dino Bravo pinned Rugged Ronnie Garvin.
9. Brain Busters overcame Strike Force.
10. Beefcake and DiBiase were both counted out.
11. Bushwhackers beat the Fabulous Rougeaus.
12. Mr. Perfect beat the Blue Blazer.
13. Twin Towers pummeled the Rockers.
14. Hercules beat King Haku.

WRESTLEMANIA VI

1. The Warrior unseated World Wrestling Federation Champion Hulk Hogan.
2. Dusty Rhodes and Sapphire outclassed the Macho Man and Sensational Queen Sherri when Sapphire pinned Sherri.
3. Piper and Bad News were both counted out for brawling on the arena floor.
4. The Barber outwrestled Perfect when he rammed Perfect's head on the ringpost.
5. DiBiase ousted the Snake via a count-out.
6. Demolition defeated the Colossal Connection for the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championship when Smash pinned Haku.
7. The Boss Man spike-slammed Akeem to gain a win.
8. The Orient Express, Sato and Tanaka, beat the Rockers via count-out.
9. Earthquake used a vertical splash to do in Hercules.
10. Rude defeated Superfly Snuka with a reverse neckbreaker.
11. Duggan pinned Bravo after belting him with a two-by-four.
12. The Foundation demolished the Bolsheviks when the Hit Man pinned Zhukov.
13. The Barbarian upended Santana with a clothesline off the top turnbuckle.
14. The Model Rick Martel pinned Koko with a Boston crab.

WRESTLEMANIA VII

1. Hulk defeated Sgt. Slaughter to win the Federation Championship Title for an unprecedented third time.
2. The Warrior beat the Macho King in a Career Match.
3. The Nasty Boys, Knobbs and Sags, won the Federation Tag Team Title from the Hart Foundation when Knobbs pinned the Anvil.
4. The Boss Man defeated Perfect by disqualification when Haku and Barbarian interfered.
5. The Snake used his DDT to beat the Model in a Blindfold Match.
6. Virgil beat DiBiase via count-out.
7. The Legion of Doom, Hawk and Animal, put away Power and Glory, Hercules and Paul Roma, when the LOD nailed Roma with the Doomsday Device.
8. The Undertaker destroyed Snuka with the Tombstone.
9. The Mountie illegally used an electric cattle prod to beat Santana.
10. The British Bulldog beat the Warlord with a powerslam.
11. The Rockers beat Haku and Barbarian when Michaels cross-bodyblocked Haku for the pin.
12. Texas Tornado pinned Bravo after he fell to the spinning Tornado punch.
13. Earthquake crushed Valentine with the vertical splash.
14. Japanese duo Tenryu and Kitao defeated Demolition, Smash and Crush.

WRESTLEMANIA VIII

1. Michaels pinned El Matador.
2. The Undertaker used his Tombstone to bury Jake the Snake.
3. Bret Hart beat Rowdy Roddy Piper for the Intercontinental Belt.
4. Virgil, Big Boss Man, Hacksaw Duggan and Sgt. Slaughter beat the Nasty Boys, Repo Man and the Mountie, when Virgil pinned Nasty Boy Knobbs.
5. The Macho Man Randy Savage won the Federation Title from Ric Flair.
6. Tatanka downed the Model Rick Martel.
7. The Natural Disasters beat Federation Tag Team Champions Money Inc. by count-out.
8. The Rocket Owen Hart smashed Skinner.
9. Hulk Hogan beat Sid Justice by disqualification when Harvey Wippleman and Papa Shango interfered.

WRESTLEMANIA VII

1. Tatanka defeated Intercontinental Champion Shawn Michaels by count-out.
2. The Steiner Brothers beat the Head Shrinkers.
3. Doink the Clown pinned Crush with the help of a Doink double.
4. Razor Ramon bested Bob Backlund.
5. Money Inc. got by the Mega-Maniacs via disqualification.
6. Lex Luger beat Mr. Perfect.
7. The Undertaker scored a disqualification win over Giant Gonzalez.
8. Yokozuna beat Bret Hart for the Federation Championship.
•9. Hulk Hogan won the World Wrestling Federation Championship Belt from Yokozuna.

•Non-scheduled match.

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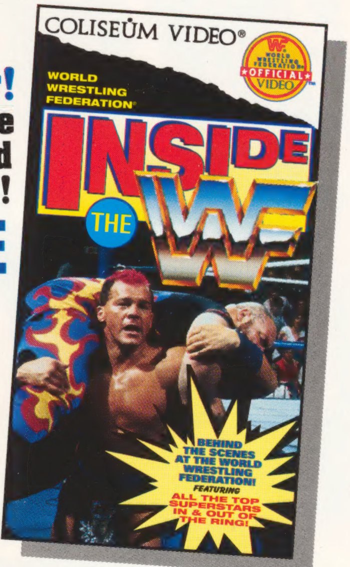
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